***Voices from the Margins: Supporting Vocational Exploration with Underserved Students***

**Biographies for Workshop Leaders**

**Chris Arguedas** is currently the interim director of the Intercultural Community Center at Occidental College. Chris has a successful track record of social justice and equity advocacy prior to arriving at Occidental College. He began in the nonprofit sector as a counselor, tutor and English as a Second Language teacher. While pursuing his Master's in higher education administration at Florida International University, Chris educated students about issues of diversity and inclusion. Upon completion of his Master’s degree, Chris accepted a full-time position in student leadership at University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) where he led a multicultural education program, and continued to work closely with students on such topics. Prior to attending graduate school, Chris received a BA in communications from the University of Southern Mississippi.

After a year into his time at UCSB, Chris was promoted and further committed himself to key social justice initiatives. Most notably, he created and streamlined social justice curriculum for staff and students, established a bias response protocol in conjunction with Judicial Affairs, and helped launch a diversity and inclusion conference for Housing, Dining & Auxiliary Enterprises in an effort to broaden understanding among staff and students from differing backgrounds. As the professional staff member responsible for Rainbow House, a LGBTQIA+ living-learning community at UCSB, Chris gained invaluable experience facilitating conversations with campus stakeholders regarding the unique needs of LGBTQIA+ students, while also identifying effective mental health and crisis intervention strategies.

**Stephanie Calderon’s** research focuses on critical college access for culturally and linguistically diverse students and families. As a college access practitioner, Stephanie finds that many college access programs disregard the intersecting identities of the students they serve, ultimately resulting in low persistence rates upon the transition to college. Her master’s thesis centers on the experiences of young men of color who participated in college access programs as they transition to four year institutions. Stephanie has presented at the National College Access Conference (NCAN) regarding student enrichment that leads to post-secondary success. Stephanie aims to continue examining practices that enhance the college experiences and resources of culturally and linguistically diverse student to and through college in her doctoral studies.

**Laura E. Enriquez** is assistant professor of Chicano/Latino Studies at the University of California, Irvine (UCI). Her research focuses on the experiences of undocumented young adults and mixed-status families. Her book, *Of Love and Papers: How Immigration Policy Affects Romance and Family*, is due out in March. She leads the Undocumented Student Equity Project and the UC Collaborative to Promote Immigrant and Student Equity (UC PromISE), both community-based, collaborative efforts dedicated to using empirical research to advance educational equity for undocumented students and students from mixed-status families. At UCI, she serves as Faculty-in-Residence at the Dream Center and faculty chair of the Committee for Equity and Inclusion of Undocumented Students.

**Martha Morales Hernandez** is a doctoral student in sociology at the University of California, Irvine (UCI). Her research interests are within the fields of immigration, mental health, and education. Her current research investigates the role of immigration status in shaping the educational experiences and mental health outcomes of undocumented youth in institutions of higher education. She received her BA in sociology from UCI. During the 2018-2019 academic year she served as a graduate fellow at the UCI Dream Center where she helped establish the Dream Project Fellowship, an internship opportunity for undocumented students without work authorization. She now serves as the Scholars-In-Residence Program Coordinator and Program Evaluation Specialist at the Center.

**Duane “Deejay” Johnson** graduated from the University of Wisconsin Parkside with a BA in English, and shortly after went on to graduate from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh with a graduate degree in educational leadership. Deejay has devoted his life to coaching and encouraging others to live authentically. Deejay has served as a life coach, hall director, and an assistant director of an LGBT+ Resource Center at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. When not in a formal educational setting, Deejay works as an entertainer empowering individuals to do their self-work and to navigate through tough spaces. Deejay is currently the student leadership programs manager at the University of California, Santa Barbara Residential and Community Living.

**Elisabet Barrios Mateo** is a doctoral student in sociology at the University of California, Irvine (UCI). Her research examines the impact of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals on immigrant young adults’ sense of belonging. She received a BA in psychology with a minor in labor studies from University of California, Los Angeles and a Master’s in Public Policy from DePaul University. Previously, she has worked as a case manager for immigrant patients seeking healthcare in St. Louis, Missouri and a faith-based community organizer around safe and affordable housing in Topeka, Kansas. She currently serves as a graduate fellow at the UCI Dream Center, where she works closely with undocumented students.

**Bruce Reyes-Chow** is an author, speaker, parent, consultant, coach, podcaster, and pastor. He speaks and writes on issues of faith, technology, race, parenting, and church culture. He is currently pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto, senior consultant with the Center for Progressive Renewal, and a Gallup-Certified Strengths Coach. He has an active online presence and can be found on most social networks via @breyeschow.

**Erica Rosales** is the executive director of College Match, a nonprofit in Los Angeles County helping hundreds of low income students reach their full college match potential. She was assistant dean of admissions at Occidental College and an admission reader for University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Before that, Erica was a founding teach at the first charter high school in Los Angeles. At Animo Leadership she wrote curriculum for several social studies classes, became the college counselor and eventually the principal. Erica is passionate about providing a quality education to all students regardless of zip code. After graduating from Garfield High School in East Los Angeles, she was the first in her family to attend college. Her collegiate experience at Wellesley College inspired her to dedicate her career to educational equity and access. She went on to earn her Master’s degree in education at UCLA. Today, she indulges her passion for helping low income, first generation students pursue their higher education dreams. She is also an active parent in the Mt. Washington Elementary School community where she served as president of the Friends of Mt. Washington Booster Club and will continue to serve on the MWS PTA.

**Dr. D’Artagnan Scorza's** work is grounded in efforts to create communities where all people can thrive. His expansive research, education, grassroots organizing, and policy experience has made a significant impact in high need communities throughout California. While at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), he helped pass policies that established veteran’s service centers and prioritized $160 million for student services across University of California campuses. He also improved sustainability in Inglewood schools, having served as chair of the Measure GG campaign, where he helped to secure $90 million to support school construction efforts. He is published in multiple academic journals and is a lecturer in the Fielding School of Public Health at UCLA.

In his role as founder and executive director of the Social Justice Learning Institute, Dr. Scorza empowers individuals to become leaders who rise up, create change and help their communities flourish. His current service on the Inglewood Unified School District Board of Education and the UCLA Alumni Association Board further illustrates his desire to scale up solutions that improve educational outcomes for all students.

Dr. Scorza is a US Navy Iraq War Veteran. He received a BS in liberal studies with a concentration in business management from National University, as well as a BA in the study of religion and PhD in Education from UCLA. He is a UC Regent Emeritus, was a 2010 Education Pioneers Fellow, and was a 2013 Business Alliance for Local Living Economies (BALLE) Fellow.

**Dr. Deanna A. Thompson** is director of the Lutheran Center for Faith, Values, and Community and Martin E. Marty Regents Chair in Religion and the Academy at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. Before moving to St. Olaf, Thompson taught religion for over two decades at Hamline University in St. Paul, MN. Thompson is a sought-after speaker on topics ranging from Martin Luther and feminism to the intersections of cancer, trauma, and faith, and what it means to be the church in the digital age. She is author of five books, including *The Virtual Body of Christ in a Suffering World* and most recently, *Glimpsing Resurrection: Cancer, Trauma, and Ministry*.

**Daniel Tillapaugh**, PhD, is associate professor and chair in the Department of Counselor Education at California Lutheran University, where he primarily teaches in the Counseling and College Student Personnel Program. Dan has a PhD in leadership studies from the University of San Diego and a ME in counseling and personnel services from the University of Maryland. His research interests include intersectionality and student development in higher education, LGBTQ+ issues in higher education, college men and masculinities, sexual violence in higher education, and college student leadership development and education.

**Paloma Vargas**, PhD, is the director of Hispanic Serving Institution (HIS) Initiatives as California Lutheran University. She received her BS in biology from the University of Texas at El Paso, and her MS and PhD in medical and molecular parasitology from The Sackler Institute of Graduate Biomedical Sciences at New York University. Her graduate and post-doctoral work focused on host-pathogen interactions of both parasitic amoeba (*E. histolytica)* and *Legionella pneumophila*, the causative agent of Legionnaire’s Disease. She continues studying these diseases in her lab at Cal Lutheran.

As director of HSI Initiatives, Paloma's work on campus focuses on being the liaison between all departments and divisions at California Lutheran University on issues of equity and accessibility. Her goal is to address issues of justice, equity, and access in higher education for traditionally underserved and minoritized groups (Latino/a, African America/Black, Pacific Islanders, Native Americans). Much of her area of focus as director of HSI is in breaking down systemic barriers and policies that disproportionately affect the success of underrepresented groups within the higher education system. Paloma is an active member of the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Latinos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) and is an alum of the Linton-Poodry SACNAS Leadership Institute.

**Marissiko M. Wheaton** is a postdoctoral scholar at the Center for Urban Education. She completed her PhD in urban education policy with a specialization in higher education at the University of Southern California. Her research broadly explores issues of social identity, resistance and leadership. Marissiko has also worked as a student affairs practitioner and social justice educator. Her professional experience includes work in several functional areas which include residential life, student activities, and multicultural affairs. Prior to her professional work in higher education, Marissiko attended Santa Monica College and transferred to the University of California, Irvine where she earned her BA in social ecology. She obtained her MA in higher education/student personnel administration from New York University.