



Wheelhouse

The Center for Community College
Leadership and Research

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Wheelhouse Launches Advancing Leaders Institute to Support Next Generation of California Community College Leaders

LOS ANGELES - [Wheelhouse: The Center for Community College Leadership and Research](#) is launching a new professional growth and networking institute to develop and support a diverse new generation of equity-focused California community college leaders who are nimble, innovative, highly networked, data-driven, and representative of students they will serve.

“The Advancing Leaders Institute is designed to amplify and diversify a critical pipeline of prepared and adaptive community college presidents, superintendents and chancellors for California,” said Francisco C. Rodriguez, Wheelhouse Chancellor in Residence and Chancellor of the Los Angeles Community College District. “We aim to strengthen the capacities of aspiring community college CEOs who will lead our colleges and build institutional climates to successfully attract, retain, serve and graduate students in greater numbers.”

The first ALI cohort will convene July 20 through July 23 at UCLA, meeting again at UC Davis in the fall.

See the participants in the 2023 ALI cohort [here](#). The cohort includes 32 cabinet-level California community college administrators representing 32 colleges and districts that collectively serve three-quarters of a million students in urban, suburban and rural communities from Northern California, the Bay Area, the Great Central Valley, Inland Empire, Greater Los Angeles and the San Diego Border region. Their current roles include vice presidents, vice chancellors, and associate vice chancellors as well as an interim chancellor and acting president. Their spheres of responsibility range from instruction to student services to administrative services. The majority identify as female and more than two-thirds identify as people of color.

ALI builds on Wheelhouse’s [CEO Institute on Leadership](#) for sitting community college CEOs. ALI extends opportunity for historically underrepresented college leader candidates to prepare for top roles at community colleges.

“This targeted support for the community college leadership pipeline is timely with a recent acceleration of retirements and turnover among the current ranks of community college CEOs,” said Susanna Cooper, executive director of Wheelhouse. “Our goal is to support aspiring leaders to develop individual leadership and organizational acumen, and build supportive professional networks for future success as CEOs.”

Wheelhouse institute sessions focus on transformational leadership, individual and team performance analytics, organizational agility, educational equity and social justice. Through the CEO Institute and the Advancing Leaders Institute, sitting and aspiring community college presidents, superintendent/presidents and chancellors build know-how and tenacity, sharpen student-centered mindsets, and establish lasting leadership networks.

About Wheelhouse

The mission of Wheelhouse, housed in the UC Davis School of Education, is to support and resource current and future leaders in the California Community Colleges system through leadership development, support and actionable research. The Center’s work is led by a committed [team](#), counseled by a [Board of Advisors](#) composed of long-time leaders in community college practice and research, and funded by a combination of federal, state, university and philanthropic resources.

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