

2024 CCOG EDUCATORS SUMMIT @The Beach



CENTER TO CLOSE
THE OPPORTUNITY GAP

CSU The California State University

ROOTED IN RESILIENCE: CULTIVATING EDUCATOR COURAGE AND CARE



FRIDAY, JULY 26TH



9:00AM - 1:00 PM



UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION BALLROOM



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

LONG BEACH

College of Education

CCOG EDUCATORS SUMMIT AGENDA

ZOOM MEETING LINK:

[HTTPS://CSULB.ZOOM.US/J/87348703532](https://csulb.zoom.us/j/87348703532)

9:00-9:30AM

WELCOME

EDTALK: BRIDGETTE DONALD-BLUE

9:30-10:15AM

**STUDENT PANEL MODERATED BY
SOVEY LONG-LATTERI**

10:30-11:15AM

BREAKOUT SESSION: JOSE RIVAS

12:30PM-1:00 PM

EDTALK: MARLENE CARTER

CLOSING REMARKS



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EDTALK SPEAKER

BRIDGETTE DONALD-BLUE 2023 CA Teacher of the Year



Bridgette Donald-Blue is a teacher through and through! She is a native of Miami, Florida and is a graduate of Howard University. Her original plan was to become a lawyer, but a chance encounter with the Teach for America organization during her senior year set her on a new path. Investing well beyond the two-year commitment required for Teach for America, today, Bridgette has over 30 years of teaching experience. She holds a Master's degree in Educational Administration from Cal State University Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) and has been a National Board Certified Teacher since 2004. She served as an adjunct professor at UCLA in the Center X National Board for Certification and CSUDH in the teacher credentialing program. When she's not teaching, Bridgette is also an avid supporter and volunteer for The Girls Scouts of America. In 2022, Bridgette became Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year and LAUSD Teacher of the Year. In 2023, Bridgette became a 2023 California Teacher of the Year. In July of 2023 Bridgette received a call from Sony Studios asking her to come audition to fill in for the incomparable Vanna White for a week on Wheel of Fortune. Bridgette and her "Letters from Mrs. Blue" week with the puzzle board that aired October 2-6, 2023 caught national attention from Today with Hoda & Jenna, Michael Stahand, and ABC World News. Bridgette's experience with becoming a California Teacher of the Year and being on Wheel of Fortune inspired her to become a speaker and author by expanding her "Letters from Mrs. Blue" brand to educate teachers, parents, administrators and all who care about education.

Visit www.LettersFromMrsBlue.com and follow Bridgette on Instagram @LettersFromMrsBlue to say hello and to keep in touch.



STUDENT PANEL

MODERATED BY
SOVEY LONG-LATTERI



Valerie Soto

- Cabrillo High School, LBUSD, Class of 2024
- Co-President of the Girls in Engineering, Mathematics & Science Club
- National Championship Drone Soccer team, The Flying Jags
- Chemical Engineering Major, CSULB

Jeremy Ramos

- B.A., Liberal Studies, CSULB, Class of 2024
- First Generation Mexican American
- Associate's Degree in Elementary Education/Teaching, Cerritos College
- HSBA PR Assistant/Banquet Director, LSU Vice President, Caminantes Co-Chair
- Student Trustee USU and SRWC (UREC) Board of Trustees Chair

Jessica King

- Creative Writing and World Literature (Double Major), CSULB, Class of 2025
- First-generation, AuDHD female student
- LIFE Project peer mentor; sole proprietor of The White Dove Poet; campus and community disability activist

Chimnazaekpere Nwala (Naza)

- Rising Junior, Ernest McBride Sr. High School, Health & Medical Pathway
- LBUSD, Class of 2026
- Class President (Two consecutive years)
- Chemistry Club President
- Vice-President of the Black Literary Society Chapter at McBride

Soraya Whaley

- Rising Senior, California Academy of Math & Sciences, LBUSD, Class of 2025
- Event commissioner for CAMS Black Student Alliance
- Student ambassador for the Black Literary Society, LBUSD
- Co-Captain for CAMS girls tennis team
- Intern at BuroHappold, an engineering firm focused on sustainability through architecture and community health

BREAKOUT SESSION

Jose Rivas

USU Ballroom

Engage, Enable, Empower: UDL for All Students (Secondary Audience)

This session explores how Universal Design for Learning (UDL) can profoundly reshape classroom dynamics, fostering a genuinely inclusive environment where students are driven by intrinsic motivation rather than grades. Emphasizing collaboration and personal growth, participants will gain insights into the foundational principles and scientific rationale that underpin UDL's effectiveness. They will receive a detailed walkthrough of a typical day in my UDL classroom, covering everything from physical setup to instructional activities and multimedia integration. Through interactive activities, attendees will directly experience UDL principles in action. Moreover, the session will equip educators with practical UDL strategies that empower immediate implementation in their own classrooms. These strategies encompass designing activities that encourage student autonomy, facilitating inclusive discussions where all voices are heard, and fostering accessibility through student-driven learning objectives.

Jose Rivas served as one of the lead teachers for UDL implementation and instructional coaching at Lennox Academy under a LACOE program on UDL. He left the engineering field to teach high school physics and engineering. His contributions include multiple presentations at Infiniscope and the Above and Beyond Teacher Leadership Academy, emphasizing the pivotal role of UDL in educational settings. In partnership with Teach Plus as an Emergent Bilingual Change Agent, Jose and his educator cohort developed a science literacy framework rooted in UDL principles. This framework aims to enhance student literacy in science and engineering through comprehensive instructional strategies supported by UDL theory and practice. He received the 2017 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science (PAEMST), the Shell Science Teaching Award in 2015, and the Northrop Excellence in Engineering Education Award in 2016.



EDTALK SPEAKER

MARLENE CARTER

UCLA Writing Project



Marlene Carter is Co-Director of Professional Development for the UCLA Writing Project. She taught English at El Camino Real High School and Dorsey High School (her alma mater) in LAUSD. Marlene leads the UCLAWP's Improving Student Writing team and co-leads and co-designs study groups on race for teachers and schools in the Los Angeles area. In 2010, she received the Outstanding Teachers of America Award from the Carlston Family Foundation and now serves as Project Director for the Foundation's Teacher Leadership Academy. She has presented at the UCLAWP's With Different Eyes Conference and most recently at the Center to Close the Opportunity Gap Summit. Publications include "Helping African American Males Reach Their Academic Potential" in *Going Public with Our Teaching: An Anthology of Practice* (2005) and "The Best of Both Worlds" in *Beyond Heroes and Holidays: A Practical Guide to K-12 Anti-Racist, Multicultural Education and Staff Development* (1998). She believes that every student deserves to be taught by antiracist educators who love their students and know their subject.



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CCOG Mission

The CSU Center to Close the Opportunity Gap is a state supported multi-campus initiative with regional networks that will collaboratively learn, work, and leverage opportunities across sectors, to support systemic change and advance PK-12 students' academic success.

Established at California State University Long Beach, and in partnership with San Diego State University, California State University Fullerton and San Jose State University, the Center will focus on identifying and refining proven strategies to eliminate equity gaps at all levels of education and will share resources, tools and evidence-based best practices with colleges of education across the CSU and education partners across California.

What We Do

Our goals are to

1. Strengthen professional preparation of educators-teachers, education specialists, and administrators;
2. Conduct original research in PK-12 school to identify valid, reliable, and sustainable teaching practices that impact the opportunities and achievement of PK-12 students;
3. Develop and disseminate tools and resources to implement these practices in PK-12 and educator preparation programs.

