

2020 Classified Senate Summer Professional Development Retreat Presenters Biographies

Michelle Batista

Michelle Batista has been an educator for over 18 years at the middle school, high school, community college, and 4 year college level. She currently serves as the Director of Student Support and Deputy Title IX Coordinator at Skyline College. She has been a facilitator for several academies offered through the Equity Institute; guiding conversations with colleagues on interrogating how to ground their work in being a student ready, equity minded, and transformative educator within our Community Colleges. Michelle is proud to be one of the co-founders of COLEGAS (California Community College Organización de Latinx Empowerment, Guidance, Advocacy for Success) a statewide organization for Latinx professionals who, through intentional advocacy and coalition building, lead and influence transformative, systemic change within the California Community College system. Michelle is a Latina, first generation college graduate, and holds a BA in Spanish and an MA in School Counseling with a Pupil Personnel Services Credential from Saint Mary's College of California. Michelle consciously lives and acts from an anti-racist, anti-sexist and queer solidarity lens in her personal and professional life. When not sheltering in place you can find her singing, salsa dancing and traveling the world.

Gustavo Beltran

Gustavo Beltran is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker for San Mateo County under Behavioral Health and Recovery Services. He is currently under the Transitional Age Youth, (18-25), program working as a bilingual clinician providing individual therapy and case management services. Gustavo received his Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from San Francisco State University and a Master's Degree in Social Work from San Jose State University. His experience includes working with various non-profit organizations providing therapeutic services to foster youth, youth in the criminal justice system, as well as providing psychiatric rehabilitation for adult inmates at the San Francisco County Jail. His dedication to working with marginalized and oppressed groups has been the focus of his work in the past 12 years and has committed to empowering those to reach their full potential.

Dr. Cheryl L. Johnson

Dr. Cheryl L. Johnson is Dean of Student Equity and Support Programs, Dr. Johnson is a clinical psychologist who for years worked in mental health disparities and equity in health. Prior to joining Skyline College Dr. Johnson was the Executive Director for the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Humboldt State University (HSU), in Arcata CA. During Dr. Johnson tenure at HSU, her office trained over 700 faculty, students,



staff and local community members in racial equity and the impact of racial inequities on student success and well-being. Dr. Johnson created many policy changes by working from data informed decision making. Dr. Johnson want to be a part of creating at Skyline a welcoming, inclusive and racially equitable campus community for classified professionals, faculty, administrators, students of color, and all other intersectional cultural identities.

Liz Llamas

Liz Llamas is a licensed marriage, family therapist and has served as an adjunct faculty counselor at Skyline College for ten years. She is also the co-founder of CASSY (Counseling and Support Services for Youth). Her experience includes extensive work within culturally diverse settings providing individual, group and family therapy, outreach and psycho-educational courses. Liz received her Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology from Santa Clara University where she graduated with distinction in 2002 and later served as an Adjunct Lecturer in the graduate Counseling Psychology Program. Liz has worked in a variety of settings including local elementary, middle and high schools, Rape Trauma Services and other nonprofit organizations. She also created a specialized therapeutic program for newly immigrated Latino students while at Menlo Atherton High School. She was previously on the Board of Directors of the California Community College Mental Health and Wellness Association and is a state certified sexual assault counselor.