

## Accreditation Team Bios

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### Chair: Superintendent/President Dr. Debra Daniels



Dr. Debra S. Daniels has served as Superintendent/President of West Kern Community College District and Taft College since 2016 when she came to Taft from Joliet, Illinois. Dr. Daniels has over 35 years of higher education experience, including positions as Superintendent/President of Joliet Junior College in Illinois, President of San Bernardino Valley College in San Bernardino, California, and interim President of New Mexico State University at Alamogordo in New Mexico. Prior to serving as a Superintendent/President, she was a Vice President of Academics and Student Services and a faculty member teaching dental assisting and dental hygiene. Dr. Daniels began her college education at a community college and then earned both her Masters and Doctorate in Education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Assistant: Dean of Instruction and CTE, Dr. Jessica Grimes**



Dr. Jessica Grimes spent 10 years as an English professor at Taft College before transitioning to her current position, as first, Interim Dean of Instruction and CTE, then Dean of Instruction and CTE. In her role as a professor, she taught all levels of English and some literature courses. Her faculty service included serving on various committees, serving as an elected member of the faculty bargaining team. Additionally, she worked on a number of initiatives, including the implementation of AB 705 at Taft College. In her current position, she works on a number of state initiatives, including the Vision for Success Goals as it intersects with Guided Pathways and student success. Moreover, she has worked on curriculum development for programs and oversees a number of grants related to career education. Dr. Grimes received her PhD in Literature and Criticism from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

**Professor of English, Kristina Allende**



Kristina Allende (she/her/hers) is a Professor of English and the Curriculum Liaison at Mt. San Antonio College. She served her college as its Faculty Accreditation Coordinator for twelve years, leading it through two full ISER cycles. This is her tenth time serving on a visiting team for the ACCJC.

**Professor of Mathematics, Dr. Marie Bruley**



Marie Bruley, Ed.D is a tenured math faculty member at Merced College, in Merced, California. She has served as Academic President at Merced College, co-chaired multiple shared governance committees at her college, and contributed to writing multiple accreditation reports. She has served on a variety of committees including her campus committees for curriculum, accreditation, equivalency, diversity, budget, and multiple planning committees. She contributed to the development of her college integrated planning manual and has served on multiple visiting teams. She has taught mathematics at Merced College for 15 years, teaching course work at the transfer level and developmental level, and teaching courses online for many years. Her dissertation was a mixed methods exploratory design, titled "Outcomes of Math Faculty Engagements in Student Learning Outcomes Assessment in the Two-Year College".

**Sociology Instructor, Dr. Thea Alvarado**



A former community college student, Dr. Thea Sweo Alvarado holds a B.A. in Sociology from UC Berkeley and an M.A. in Social Science with a concentration in Demographic and Social Analysis (DASA) from UC Irvine. She completed her Ed.D. through UC Davis' Capital Area North Doctorate in Educational Leadership (CANDEL) Program. Dr. Alvarado teaches Sociology at Pasadena City College, where she chairs the Academic Senate's Faculty Committee on Online Education, Co-Chairs the Campus Distance Education Committee, Chairs the Social Sciences Division, and serves the campus community as Faculty Accreditation Coordinator. A passionate advocate of Open Education Resources (OER) and online education, she brings 15 years of teaching experience to the team.



**Dean of the Library and Instruction Support, Mike Garabedian**



Mike Garabedian is the Dean of the Library and Instructional Support at Río Hondo College in Southern California. His varied research interests include the history of printing, shared print collections, and the future of physical books in undergraduate libraries. Formerly a rare books cataloger in the Los Angeles book trade, and for ten years collections development librarian at Whittier College in Southern California, he has been in his current position at Río Hondo College since January 2019.

**Vice President of Instruction, Dr. Monica Flores-Pactol**



Monica Pactol has 29 years of experience in community colleges. She was a full time faculty member in Communication Studies at West Valley College. She has served as Director of Instructional Outreach at Arapahoe Community College in Littleton CO, and as Dean of Instruction at Folsom Lake College (FLC). She currently serves as Vice President of Instruction and Accreditation Liaison Officer at FLC. Her experiences have given her the breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding of the culture, values, policies, and practices related to community colleges. She possesses a BA and MA in Communication Studies from New Mexico State University and a Ph.D in Community College Leadership from Colorado State University.

## Vice President of Administrative Services, Dr. Bart Hoffman



Dr. Bart Hoffman is Vice President of Administrative Services for Santa Ana College since 2018 and is responsible for budget development & accounting, maintenance of facilities and grounds, transportation, community use of facilities, and auxiliary services including the student business office, campus store/bookstore, and food services. Dr. Hoffman is also the primary liaison with certain centralized district services such as facilities planning and public safety.

Prior to his current position, Dr. Hoffman served as an academic dean for Santa Ana College overseeing the Human Services & Technology Division and the Career Education & Workforce Development Division from 2008 to 2018. He also served as Director of the Rancho Santiago Community College District Digital Media Center from 2005 to 2008. Dr. Hoffman has held various other public and private sector positions ranging from Director of the El Camino College Small Business Development Center to Business Administrator for an aerospace company. In addition, Dr. Hoffman has taught business courses for Santa Ana College, Cypress College and El Camino College.

Dr. Hoffman holds an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from California State University, Fullerton, an MBA from the University of Phoenix.



**Director of Institutional Effectiveness, Dr. Daniel Martinez**



Daniel Martinez, PhD, is the Director of Institutional Research at College of the Desert. In his almost 30 years in the institutional research field in the California Community Colleges, his work has focused on student access and success, student equity, and first-generation college students. Dr. Martinez has presented at numerous conferences at both the state and national level on topics ranging from student success to post enrollment outcomes to data visualization tools and statistical methods.

## Vice President of Student Services, Florentino Manzano



Florentino Manzano is the Vice President of Student Services at Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC). Being a first-generation college student himself, and the first in his large family to attend college, Mr. Manzano especially connects with the mission of California community colleges and the importance of a strong Student Services division. Throughout his 29 years in academic leadership, his strong commitment to student access, development, and services that promote community and racial equity have guided his career.

As the Vice President of Student Services, he is responsible for the overall leadership for the college in all operational activities related to Student Services. He is responsible for the supervision and guidance for the following campus units: Admissions and Records, Financial Aid, Assessment, Welcome Center, Counseling, the Career Transfer Center, EOPS, DSPS, TRiO and Upward Bound, the Multi-Cultural Center, including the Dream Resource Center and Umoja/Black Scholars, Veterans Center, the Associated Student Union, Student Life, the Child Development Center, and the Student Health Center.

Mr. Manzano holds a B.A. in Mexican-American Studies and a M.A. in Educational Administration and Policy Studies from California State University, Northridge.

## ACCJC Team Liaisons

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**ACCJC President, Dr. Stephanie Droker**



Dr. Droker currently serves as ACCJC President, having joined the ACCJC staff in August 2016 as Vice President and then Senior Vice President. Dr. Droker has provided organizational and regional leadership in the development and support of ACCJC's strategic priorities and accreditation initiatives. She has worked with agency staff, Commissioners, and institutional representatives from across ACCJC's membership, including private colleges and those in the Pacific region, to affect change and foster innovation in both ACCJC operations and within member institutions. On the national front, Dr. Droker contributes to educational quality by serving as a member of the committee on recognition for the Council of Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA.) Prior to joining the Commission, Dr. Droker held senior-level college administration and faculty positions within the California Community College system.

**ACCJC Vice President, Dr. Kevin Bontenbal**



Kevin Bontenbal joined the Commission staff in August 2020. He brings with him 23 years of accreditation and college leadership experience, and a strong commitment to the higher education community college system. For the past five years, Dr. Bontenbal has served as an academic Commissioner chairing the Substantive Change and Policy Committees and as a peer reviewer on many external site visits. Most recently, he was the Instructional Technology Librarian/Faculty at Cuesta College. Kevin has a strong background in college governance and leadership having served in many roles, including Academic Senate President, Curriculum Chair, Accreditation Co-Chair, and Faculty Professional Development Coordinator. Dr. Bontenbal is present during the site visit to ensure consistency in the peer review process and serves as a resource to Los Medanos College and the peer review.