

# BUILDING FOR TOMORROW:

Student Housing Strategies from Design to Residential Life

## AGENDA • Thursday, November 13, 2025

7:30 am – 9:00 am

Registration and Buffet Breakfast

9:00 am – 9:35 am

General Session | College Center - 3rd Floor  
Welcome Remarks and Land Acknowledgement



Ronnie Slimp, Director Student Housing,  
Chancellor's Office



Dr. Derek Vergara, Dean of Students,  
Orange Coast College



Dr. Sonya Christian, Chancellor,  
Chancellor's Office



Dr. Madjid Niroumand, Vice President of  
Student Services, Orange Coast College

9:35 am – 10:15 am

Keynote: Unapologetically: Working for Change While Building for Tomorrow  
Dr. Keith Curry, President and CEO, Compton College



Dr. Keith Curry,  
President and CEO, Compton College



10:15 am – 10:50 am

Student Panel | Student Voices: Living, Learning, and Leading in Housing



Joanna Jackson, Student Senate President  
Resident Advisor, Orange Coast College



Cason Rice, Resident Assistant, Housing  
and Residential Life, CSU Long Beach



Zane Chang, Resident Advisor  
Orange Coast College



Hazel Zabatier, Resident Assistant,  
CSU Long Beach



Luis Galvan, Resident Assistant  
and Basic Needs Lead Student Assistant,  
CSU Long Beach



Hudson Conners, Student Trustee, Resident  
Advisor, Lake Tahoe Community College



Dr. Derek Vergara, Dean of Students, Orange  
Coast College  
(Moderator)

11:10 am – 11:50 am

Welcome Home: Creating Space for Students to Live, Learn, and Thrive  
Jeff DeFranco, Superintendent/President, Lake Tahoe Community College



Jeff DeFranco,  
Superintendent/President,  
Lake Tahoe Community College



## AGENDA • Thursday, November 13, 2025

1:00 pm - 2:10 pm

### BREAKOUT SESSION 1:

#### PLANNING & DESIGN

**Intersegmental Collaboration in Student Housing: Building Pathways Across Systems | Room: College Center - 3rd Floor**



*Margaret Saunders, Executive Director, Space, Capital Planning and Real Estate, Physical Operations Planning & Development, UC Merced*



*Hussain Agah, Associate Vice Chancellor, Facilities Planning & Development, Riverside Community College District*



*Dr. Christine Bender, Senior Director of Residential Education WACUHO President, University of California, Riverside*



*Heidi Scribner, Associate Vice Chancellor-Auxiliary Services, University of California, Riverside*



*Ernesto Hernandez, Director, Career & Transfer Center, Merced College*



*Ann Volz, President, Volz Company (Moderator)*

#### FACILITIES OPERATIONS

**The Academic Village: Housing Students, Faculty, and Staff in Urban Districts | Room: Student Union - 213**

*UC Law SF*



*Ronnie Slimp, Director, Student Housing, Chancellor's Office, (Moderator)*



*Eric Anderson, Executive Director of Real Estate Services, California State University*



*Rhiannon Ballard, Chief Operating Officer at UC Law San Francisco*



*Higher Education Practice Leader and Associate Principal at Perkins&Will*

**Aligning Operations with Outcomes: KPIs for Student Housing Success | Room: Student Union - 101**



*Andrea Stuiber, Project Manager, Volz Company*



*Mike Loganbill, Vice President, Volz Company (Moderator)*



*Dr. Madjid Niroumand, Vice President, Student Services, Orange Coast College*



*Dr. Thomas A. Cruz-Soto, Jr., Dean of Student Services, Riverside City College*



*Robert Ethington, Dean of Students, Santa Rosa Junior College*

## AGENDA • Thursday, November 13, 2025

1:00 pm - 2:10 pm

### BREAKOUT SESSION 1:

#### STUDENT SUPPORT & RETENTION

The Harbour at OCC: Forging Campus Partnerships  
for Residential Student Success | Room: Student Union - 214



Jamie Kammerman, Director,  
Housing & Residential Education,  
Orange Coast College



Chris Campbell, Program Coordinator,  
Housing & Residential Education,  
Orange Coast College



Timothy Ibrahim, Assistant Director of  
Student Conduct and Residential Care,  
CSU Fullerton, (formerly Residential  
Education Coordinator, Capstone/  
Orange Coast College)

2:30 pm - 3:40 pm

### BREAKOUT SESSION 2:

#### PLANNING & DESIGN

Pathways in Practice: Multiple Approaches for Campus Housing Planning | Room: College  
Center - 3rd Floor



Joel Cadiz, Executive Director, Facilities  
and Operations, Foothill-DeAnza  
Community College District



Dr. Joel Peterson, Vice Chancellor  
of Facilities Management, San Diego  
Community College District



Wrenna Finche, CPA, Vice President  
of Administrative Services, Ohlone  
Community College District



Jason Trinidad, Project Manager,  
Ohlone Community College District



Dr. Madjid Niroumand, Vice President,  
Student Services, Orange Coast  
College



Ann Volz, President, Volz Company



AJ Yoon, Vice President, Volz Company  
(Moderator)

## AGENDA • Thursday, November 13, 2025

2:30 pm – 3:40 pm

### BREAKOUT SESSION 2:

#### FACILITIES OPERATIONS

Navigating Legal Landscapes in Student Housing | Room: Student Union - 213



*Eileen O'Hare*  
Partner, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore



*Amy Brandt*  
Partner, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore



LIEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE

#### STUDENT SUPPORT & RETENTION

Case Management of Residents: Strategies for Retention & Success | Room: Student Union - 101



*Robert Ethington, Dean of Students,  
Santa Rosa Junior College  
(Moderator)*



*Dr. Derek Vergara, Dean of Students,  
Orange Coast College*



*Larry Valentine, Director of Mental Health  
Services, Orange Coast College*



*Benjamin Wilson, Director of Residence  
Life, Santa Rosa Junior College*



*Christopher Chanes-Mets, MS, LMFT,  
Mental Health Therapist, Orange Coast  
College*

Western Association of College and University Housing Officers (WACUHO) | Room: Student Union - 214



*Dr. Christine Bender, Senior Director of  
Residential Education WACUHO President,  
University of California, Riverside*



3:45 pm – 4:00 pm

### Closing Remarks | College Center - 3rd Floor



*Ronnie Slimp, Director, Student  
Housing, Chancellor's Office*



*Chris Ferguson, Executive Vice  
Chancellor of Finance and Strategic  
Initiatives, Chancellor's Office*

4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Networking Reception | Orange Coast College Horticulture Garden and Pavilion

# PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

## 9:00 am – 9:35 am | WELCOME REMARKS



**Dr. Sonya Christian** recently served as the sixth Chancellor of the Kern Community College District (Kern district). A position she's held since July 2021. Christian began her three-decade career locally within Kern district as a mathematics faculty, a Division Chair, and Dean of Science, Engineering, Allied Health and Math at Bakersfield College. From 2013 to 2021 she served as the 10th President of Bakersfield College — one of the colleges overseen by Kern district.

Throughout her career Christian has been committed to advancing work through distributed leadership and collaborative communities of learning, and to promoting the value of equity in student learning, access, success and economic mobility. She says: The only way to scale work is to tap into the talent, ingenuity, dedication, and care of the people that provide the power to transform. The alignment of distributed forces stems from shared ownership that is almost always more fundamental than the details of the solution, not least because it builds a sense of community that creates long-term sustainability.

### ***Welcome from OCC Leadership***



**Dr. Madjid Niroumand,**  
**Vice President of Student Services, Orange Coast College**

Dr. Madjid Niroumand will open the conference with a warm welcome to Orange Coast College, setting the stage for a day centered on collaboration, innovation, and student success. Drawing from his extensive experience in student services and leadership, Dr. Niroumand will highlight OCC's commitment to creating transformative learning and living environments for students. His remarks will underscore the college's pride in hosting this convening and the shared mission across California's community colleges to expand access to affordable, equitable, and supportive student housing.

## 9:35 am – 10:15 am GENERAL SESSION | KEYNOTE ADDRESS

### KEYNOTE:

#### DR. KEITH CURRY PRESIDENT/CEO OF COMPTON COLLEGE



Dr. Keith Curry is the President of Compton College and CEO of the Compton Community College District. Dr. Curry is responsible for overseeing all departments and functions of Compton College and the District and serves as secretary for the CCCD Board of Trustees. He brings an abundance of energy and innovative ideas to Compton College, along with a wealth of experience as a postsecondary education administrator.

Dr. Curry co-founded and chairs Black Student Success Week. He currently serves as chair of both the National Panel on Black Student Enrollment and the Black Student Enrollment Expert Advisory Committee. He was a member of the California Alliance for Open Education Steering Committee and the University of Southern California Racial Equity in Guided Pathways Commission Task Force.

His recent honors include the 2025 California Legislative Black Caucus Unsung Hero Recognition from the 65th California Assembly District, the 2024 Diverse Issues in Higher Education Diverse, the 2024 African American California Community College Trustee and Administrators Caucus Chief Executive Officer of the Year Award, and the 2024 University of California, Santa Cruz - Alumni Awards.

Dr. Curry earned his doctorate in educational leadership from the University of California, Irvine, and a bachelor's degree in American studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

### **“Unapologetically: Working for Change While Building for Tomorrow.”**

**Session Description:** Sit back, relax, and imagine that you are fifteen months away from opening a student housing facility. Then consider what some of the key topics or discussions may need to occur or be addressed at a California Community College campus to ensure the success of the student housing facility? I assume you are no longer sitting back, you're nervous, and you can imagine the many unknowns about implementing a student housing facility. **Help is here, courtesy of Compton College,** whose student housing facility is scheduled to open in the summer of 2027. During this session, you will receive unapologetic information, strategies, and guidance as you prepare to open your student housing facility to support student success.





## 10:15 am – 10:50 am | STUDENT PANEL

### *Student Voices: Living, Learning, and Leading in Housing*

Join a powerful conversation with students who will share how living in student housing has shaped their journeys: building community, fostering resilience, and inspiring leadership. Their stories highlight the transformative role of housing in creating belonging and supporting student success.



## 11:10 am – 11:50 am | FEATURED SPEAKER

**JEFF DEFRANCO**

**SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT OF LAKE TAHOE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

### **Welcome Home: Creating Space for Students to Live, Learn, and Thrive**

At Lake Tahoe Community College, “Welcome Home” became more than a slogan. It marked the moment students could finally live and learn on campus. The presentation will share the story of LTCC’s new student housing, the lessons learned along the way, and practical takeaways for campuses designing or preparing to launch their own student housing.

# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

## 1:00 pm – 2:10 pm | SESSION 1

### Planning & Design

#### INTERSEGMENTAL COLLABORATION IN STUDENT HOUSING: BUILDING PATHWAYS ACROSS SYSTEMS



**Margaret Saunders,**  
*Executive Director, Space, Capital Planning and Real Estate, Physical Operations Planning & Development, UC Merced*



**Dr. Christine Bender,**  
*Senior Director of Residential Education, University of California, Riverside; WACUHO President*



**Hussain Agah,**  
*Associate Vice Chancellor, Facilities Planning & Development, Riverside Community College District*



**Heidi Scribner,**  
*Associate Vice Chancellor-Auxiliary Services, University of California, Riverside*



**Ernesto Hernandez,**  
*Director, Career & Transfer Center Merced College*



**Ann Volz,**  
*President, Volz Company (Moderator)*

California’s higher education systems are breaking new ground through intersegmental partnerships that bridge community colleges and universities to expand access to affordable student housing. This session spotlights two pioneering collaborations, Riverside Community College District and UC Riverside, and Merced College and UC Merced, that exemplify how shared planning, design innovation, and cross-system coordination can create more equitable housing opportunities. Panelists will discuss how these partnerships evolved, the strategies used to align resources and planning processes, and how each project centers the student experience in developing housing that supports access, belonging, and success across systems.

## Facilities & Operations

### THE ACADEMIC VILLAGE: HOUSING STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF IN URBAN DISTRICTS



**Ronnie Slimp,**  
*Director, Student Housing, Chancellor's Office,  
(Moderator)*



**Rhiannon Baillard,**  
*Chief Operating Officer, UC Law San Francisco*



**Anders Carpenter,**  
*Higher Education Practice Leader and  
Associate Principal, Perkins&Will*



**Eric Anderson,**  
*Executive Director of Real Estate Services,  
California State University*

California's colleges and universities face a shared challenge: providing affordable, well-located housing for students, faculty, and staff in some of the nation's most expensive regions. This session examines how institutions are redefining the "academic village" through collaborative planning, innovative financing, and intersegmental partnerships that integrate housing into the urban communities and throughout California. Panelists from the California Community Colleges and California State University Chancellor's Offices, UC Law San Francisco, and Perkins&Will will discuss emerging models that co-locate student and workforce housing, leverage shared amenities, and strengthen connections between campuses and their surrounding communities.

### ALIGNING OPERATIONS WITH OUTCOMES: KPIS FOR STUDENT HOUSING SUCCESS



**Andrea Stuiber,**  
*Project Manager, Volz Company*



**Mike Loganbill,**  
*Vice President, Volz Company  
(Moderator)*



**Dr. Madjid Niroumand,**  
*Vice President, Student Services,  
Orange Coast College*



**Dr. Thomas A. Cruz-Soto, Jr.,**  
*Dean of Student Services,  
Riverside City College*



**Robert Ethington,**  
*Dean of Students, Santa Rosa  
Junior College*

Student housing operations shape more than daily living. They influence retention, equity, and student achievement. This session explores how Colleges and Property Managers can collaborate to design and implement Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that connect housing operations to institutional goals. Participants will learn suggested considerations and processes for developing metrics in collaboration with administrators, housing partners, and student voices. The session will address affordability, safety, engagement, and academic outcomes, and will outline ways to create accountability structures that keep campus leaders and property managers aligned around student success.



## Student Support & Retention

### THE HARBOUR AT OCC: FORGING CAMPUS PARTNERSHIPS FOR RESIDENTIAL STUDENT SUCCESS



**Jamie Kammerman,**  
*Director, Housing & Residential Education*  
*Orange Coast College*



**Timothy Ibrahim,**  
*Assistant Director of Student Conduct and Residential*  
*Care, CSU Fullerton (formerly Residential Education*  
*Coordinator, Capstone/Orange Coast College)*



**Christopher Campbell,**  
*Project Coordinator, Housing & Residential*  
*Education, Orange Coast College*

This session presents a compelling case study of the development and implementation of student housing at Orange Coast College in Southern California through a private-public partnership with a focus on Residential Education and campus partnerships for student support and success. The Harbour, which welcomed its first residents in Fall 2020, has reshaped student support services and institutional initiatives. This session will explore the conceptual framework, collaborative partnerships, student-centered approaches, transformative outcomes, and share valuable resources, best practices, challenges, and lessons learned from developing campus partnerships with student housing. Attendees will gain insights into a successful residential student experience and partnership model.

# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

**2:30 pm – 3:40 pm | SESSION 2**

## Planning & Design

### PATHWAYS IN PRACTICE: MULTIPLE APPROACHES FOR CAMPUS HOUSING PLANNING



**Ann Volz,**  
*President, Volz Company*



**Joel Cadiz,**  
*Executive Director, Facilities and Operations,  
Foothill-DeAnza Community College District*



**Wrenna Finche, CPA,**  
*Vice President of Administrative Services,  
Ohlone Community College District*



**Dr. Madjid Niroumand,**  
*Vice President, Student Services, Orange  
Coast College*



**Dr. Joel Peterson,**  
*Vice Chancellor of Facilities Management,  
San Diego Community College District*



**Jason Trinidad,**  
*Project Manager, Ohlone Community  
College District*



**AJ Yoon,**  
*Vice President, Volz Company  
(Moderator)*

There is more than one way to bring student housing to life. This session will showcase three districts that charted different paths: Foothill-De Anza CCD, Orange Coast College, and San Diego CCD. Each pursued a distinct strategy—ranging from a tax-exempt public-private partnership (P3) to finance and deliver new construction, to leveraging bond funds through a P3 structure, to acquiring and converting an existing multifamily property using the bond funds. Each district's unique needs and opportunities shaped the pathway it chose. Panelists will walk through the planning and decision-making process, including how each campus evaluated market demand, site feasibility, financing and delivery options and 24/7 campus transition. Participants will gain practical insights into the planning considerations and lessons learned that can inform housing strategies at their own institutions.

## Facilities & Operations

### NAVIGATING LEGAL LANDSCAPES IN STUDENT HOUSING

**LCW** LIEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE



**Eileen O'Hare-Anderson,**  
*Partner, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore*



**Amy Brandt,**  
*Partner, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore*

As student housing expands across California's community colleges, legal considerations are becoming increasingly complex and crucial. This session will provide practical legal guidance for colleges developing, managing, or partnering on student housing programs. LCW partners will explore key topics including license agreement terms, student conduct issues, Title IX compliance, and the development of resident handbooks that reflect both institutional policies and student rights. We'll also discuss working effectively with third-party service providers, identifying common pitfalls, and structuring agreements that protect both the college and its students.

Designed for housing administrators, student services professionals, and college leaders, this session offers an accessible overview of the legal frameworks shaping student housing operations. Attendees will gain insight into risk management strategies, emerging legal trends, and real-world examples from across the state. Whether you're launching a new housing initiative or refining existing policies, this discussion will equip you with the tools and understanding to foster safe, equitable, and compliant housing environments that support student success.

## Student Support & Retention

### CASE MANAGEMENT OF RESIDENTS: STRATEGIES FOR RETENTION & SUCCESS



**Robert Ethington,**  
*Dean of Students, Santa Rosa Junior College*



**Dr. Derek Vergara,**  
*Dean of Students, Orange Coast College*



**Larry Valentine,**  
*Director of Mental Health Services  
Orange Coast College*



**Christopher Chanes-Mets, MS, LMFT**  
*Mental Health Therapist  
Orange Coast College*



**Benjamin Wilson**  
*Director of Residence Life,  
Santa Rosa Junior College*

## Western Association of College and University Housing Officers (WACUHO)



**Dr. Christine Bender,**  
*Senior Director of Residential Education, University of California, Riverside; WACUHO President*



The Western Association of College and University Housing Officers (WACUHO) is a professional, non-profit organization that is dedicated to exceptional collegiate residential experiences by promoting meaningful connections and providing innovative, relevant professional development and services to its members. WACUHO encompasses all aspects of on-campus student housing: administrative services, residential education/life, facilities, conference services, DEI, conduct, etc. Providing an opportunity for California Community Colleges to connect with regional and national organizations and facilitating the sharing of ideas and resources to better support the expanding stock of safe and affordable student housing.

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### 3:45 pm – 4:00 pm | CLOSING REMARKS

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**Ronnie Slimp,**  
*Director, Student Housing,  
Chancellor's Office*



**Chris Ferguson,**  
*Executive Vice Chancellor of Finance  
and Strategic Initiatives, Chancellor's Office*

To close the day, Chancellor's Office leadership will reflect on the insights, connections, and innovations shared throughout the conference. Chris Ferguson and Ronnie Slimp will reaffirm the system's collective commitment to building and sustaining student housing that supports belonging, affordability, and student success. Their remarks will recognize the work being done across the state to turn vision into action—and to ensure that every student has a place to call home while pursuing their educational goals.

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### 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm | NETWORKING RECEPTION

Join the Chancellor's Office and fellow student housing professionals for an hour of connection and refreshments in Orange Coast College Horticulture Garden and Pavilion.

## Land Acknowledgement Orange Coast College

Orange Coast College acknowledges that we are on the traditional, ancestral, unceded lands of the Acjachemen and Tongva peoples. For countless generations, this land has been a place of learning, storytelling, ceremony, and cultural exchange. We recognize and honor these enduring traditions and the movements that have shaped this land long before our time. OCC continues the legacy of education here with humility and gratitude, committed to respecting, uplifting, and partnering with Indigenous communities through awareness, education, and action. In doing so, we strive to align our mission with the stewardship values of the Acjachemen and Tongva peoples—caring for the land, honoring community, and sustaining knowledge for future generations.

### Thank You to Orange Coast College



The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office extends its sincere appreciation to Orange Coast College, its leadership, and dedicated staff for opening their beautiful campus and supporting this important convening.

Together, we affirm that affordable student housing is a basic need, one that supports student success, fosters community, and provides a space for professionals to connect, collaborate, and share innovative ideas that advance this critical work.