



The Village Demands

Black Student Success Week

April 25-29, 2022



The Village Demands

JUNETEENTH EVENT

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JUNE 17 2022



VIA ZOOM

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\$1.1 MILLION TO A²MEND

*Press Release from The African American Male Education Network and
Development (A²MEND) organization*

Gavin Newsom's commitment to increase Black male enrollment in California's community colleges, the Governor's 2022-23 budget proposal has allocated \$1.1 million to the African American Male Education Network & Development (A²MEND) organization. A²MEND comprises African American male educators who voluntarily use their scholarly and professional expertise to foster institutional change within California's

community college system by operating mentoring programs for Black male students. Since forming in 2006, A²MEND has mentored hundreds of African American male students to inspire them to enroll and succeed in the state's community colleges.

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The Village Demands Statewide Coalition on Black American Affairs

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Black Student Success



Robyn Bolden Graduate Aspirations

Individuals are often motivated to pursue higher education by factors such as income potential or prestige. Ms. Robyn Bolden was motivated by her daughter. As a young single mother, Ms. Bolden never dreamed of pursuing education beyond high school because she had to work many hours to put food on the table. After many years of ensuring that her children were provided for and supported, Ms. Bolden watched her oldest child enter community college. Seeing the hope and excitement in her daughter's eyes led Ms. Bolden to investigate whether it would be possible to enroll in community college herself. So, she applied to attend classes at San Diego Mesa College (SDMC). There, with her outgoing nature, determined to embrace the college experience as a non-traditional student, Ms. Bolden quickly became involved in student government, Umoja leadership, and many more campus activities. During her time as a student at SDMC, Ms. Bolden became a voice and advocate for students by working closely with the Student Services division at the college. Ms. Bolden was instrumental in helping with programs such as the campus Farmer's Market and The Stand, where students receive items to support their basic needs. Ms. Bolden graduated as an Honors Student from SDMC in 2019 and quickly earned her bachelor's degree from the University of California at San Diego. She credits her success to the support she received from black employees at the college who regularly mentored and counseled her. Two such people are Vice-President of Student Services, Dr. Ashanti Hands and Dean of Student Success and Equity, Mr. Larry Maxey. Black faculty at the college, such as Dr. Veronica Gerace, who helped to encouraged her to pursue special academic programs, such as the Honors Program, were also very instrumental in Ms. Bolden's path, helping her to

experience the impact of academic excellence.

Ms. Bolden has recently applied to graduate school and is optimistically awaiting news of admission. She hopes to pursue a graduate degree in Counseling with a special emphasis in Social Justice. While she waits, Ms. Bolden is working as an employee at SDMC, continuing her work with traditionally marginalized students. Most recently, Ms. Bolden has been advocating and developing recommendations for lactation centers for women on campus while she encourages other students to persist.



Classified Employee of the Year: Ms. Carolyn Scott

Ms. Carolyn Scott has been nominated by the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District for the California Community College **Classified Employee of the Year**. The Classified Employee of the Year Awards honor community college classified employees who demonstrate the highest level of commitment to achieving equitable student outcomes,

serve the institution's diverse student population, and are leaders beyond their local institution.

"Carolyn Scott has been one of the most visible and impactful equity leaders on the Las Positas College campus. She has, for over a decade, been a courageous voice for equitable outcomes for underrepresented students in our district—especially Black students. Ms. Scott is a contributing member of the Black Education Association, a group that sponsors events for Black History Month and Black graduation. She also played an important role in creating a supportive and welcoming environment for students at LPC's new Black Cultural Resource Center. She volunteers hours each week to staff the center and spends time as a mentor in the college's Connect UP program. Additionally, she serves on the President's Advisory Council on Race and Equity at Las Positas, she's a member of the Umoja Advisory Board and the REACH Collaborative, and is a member of the Commencement Task Force. Ms. Scott has served on the district's Equal Employment Opportunity Advisory Group, which is tasked with creating equity practices in hiring with the goal of diversifying our employee groups. She is the first Tri-Chair of the Professional Development Committee, remains active with the Classified Senate, and supports the Enrollment Management Committee and the Accreditation and Steering Committee. Beyond the campus, Carolyn has been a member of the Village Demands Statewide Coalition on Black American Affairs and is personally active in the Tri-Valley community. All of Ms. Scott's committee and volunteer work, which goes beyond what I've shared here, is done above and beyond the demanding duties of her role as executive assistant." - Chancellor Ronald Gerhard

Ms. Scott is also a valued member of The Village Demands, serving on the Board and several committees.

CONGRATULATIONS, MS. SCOTT!

Inspirational Quote

"Believe in yourself, learn, and never stop wanting to build a better world."

- Mary McLeod Bethune



Dr. Tina King

Appointed

President

of

San Diego College of Continuing Education

Dr. Tina King has been named the next president of the San Diego College of Continuing Education. Dr. King will assume leadership of San Diego College of Continuing Education (SDCCE), one of the oldest and largest noncredit colleges in the country, which serves 30,000 students per semester at seven campuses and many community locations. Dr. King is currently the assistant superintendent/vice president of student affairs at Southwestern College in Chula Vista.

“Dr. King brings a wonderful combination of experience and enthusiasm that make her an excellent choice as Continuing Education’s permanent president,” said San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) Chancellor Dr. Carlos O. Turner Cortez. “The Board of Trustees and I were impressed by her vision for growth and deep commitment to serving students.”

“I am incredibly humbled and honored the Governing Board has entrusted me to lead San Diego College of Continuing Education--a college that has proudly served San Diego for more than a century. I look forward to working with Chancellor Cortez, the team of dedicated educators and student leaders at SDCCE, and my counterparts and colleagues in the district in delivering educational experiences and career opportunities that are innovative, inclusive, and meet the diverse needs of all San Diegans.” Dr. King earned a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership from California State University, Fullerton where her dissertation focused on the role of community college faculty and staff in creating academic achievement for Black men. She also has a Master of Arts in Education from the University of Southern California; and a Multiple Subject Credential and a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies from California State University, Northridge.

To learn more about Dr. King and her new role, please visit the [SDCCD website](#) (SDCCD, 2022; Diverse Education, 2022)

CONGRATULATIONS, DR. KING!



Dr. Rose-Margaret Ekeng-Itua

Black Faculty in STEM

Dr. Rose-Margaret Ekeng-Itua is a trailblazing Professor of Engineering, a TED-Ed Author and a TEDx Speaker with over 20 years of experience in STEM Higher & Further Education. Before moving to the US, she was the Chair of the Engineering Department, and a Distinguished Senior Lecturer in Electrical and Electronics Engineering at the University of West London in London, UK. She is an Equity in STEM Education Thought Leaders & Advocate and has taken her advocacy work to the United Nations Assembly and the US Congress, to advocate for laws and policies that promote Equitable STEM Education in the US and globally. Her [TED-Ed video](#) that creates visibility for African American Innovators in STEM has had over half a million views on YouTube. Rose-Margaret earned her Doctorate degree in Cybernetics from University of Reading in the UK, her Certificate in Disruptive Strategies at Harvard University, her Masters of Science in Mobile and Satellite Communications Engineering from University of Surrey in the UK, and her Bachelor's in Engineering with Honors in Electrical and Electronic Engineering with a concentration in Telecommunications Systems from Federal University of Technology Owerri, Nigeria. Dr. Ekeng-Itua has been a two-time Visiting Research Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley in the Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory in and in the Laboratory for Manufacturing and Sustainability.

Dr. Ekeng-Itua was appointed and serves as a Commissioner on the Economic Development Advisory Board of the City of Fremont, California. She was also recently appointed by the California State Senate Rules Committee to take office as a member of the State Assembly Bill 928(AB 928) Implementation Committee. In 2021, she received a special Commendation for Creating Excellence in STEM Education from the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, Supervisor David Herbert. This was in recognition of her work in co-creating the ELF Program (Earn & Learn Fremont) that provides participants affected by COVID-19 layoffs the opportunity to jumpstart a new career in advanced manufacturing. The program was featured on KRON4 News. Dr. Ekeng-Itua is the Principal Investigator (PI) for the National Science Foundation (NSF) grant for Smart Advanced Manufacturing Education in the Silicon Valley. She is also the Director for the Northern California Engineering Technology Apprenticeship Pathways Project. She received the Dr. Yasmin Davidds Multicultural Women Courage in Leadership Award in January 2022 and was the recipient of the Outstanding Teaching Award recipient from the American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE) PSW section in 2017. Dr. Ekeng-Itua also received the 2017 Faculty of the Year Award from Ohlone College. In 2018 she received the Society for Women Engineers Advocating for Women Award. She

has been recognized by UNESCO, BBC, and the IEEE for her contributions towards bridging gender and race divides in STEM education and careers

Dr. Ekeng-Itua is also committed to volunteer service in the larger community, and much of her service focuses on serving underrepresented groups in the sciences and engineering. She has served as a Director on the Board of Directors for Silicon Valley Engineering Council, a Special Director on the Board of Directors for the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), a President of the Society of Women Engineers, Mt. Diablo Section and as the Founding Lead for the SWE African American Affinity Group. Dr. Ekeng-Itua is the Chair for Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), Special Interest Group for Humanitarian Technology- OEB Section, a member of United Nations Association, and the Founder of The African Technology and Innovation Institute. When not serving the community or mentoring the next generation of STEAMists, Rose-Margaret enjoys travelling, amateur painting, listening to music, reading and spending time with her husband, children, family and friends.

In Case You Missed It

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on Black American Affairs**

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Words from the Wise

"I'm bothered when people don't understand that they have an obligation to use their best measure of devotion, of resources, to sacrifice for the common good."

- Cory Booker

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