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Page 1 of 2

September 13, 2022

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LEAD California Executive Board Selects Two New Members

Dominican University of California President Nicola Pitchford and California State University, Fresno President Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval join the 2022-2023 LEAD California Executive Board.

September 13, 2022

Los Angeles, CA – LEAD California (formerly California Campus Compact) announced today that its Executive Board has selected Dominican University of California President Nicola Pitchford and California State University, Fresno President Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval to join the 2022-2023 Executive Board. These two presidents are committed to fulfilling the civic purposes of higher education and join a distinguished group of leaders from across California representing all sectors of higher education.

“We are absolutely thrilled to have these two dedicated and accomplished leaders join our board,” said LEAD California Board Chair and University of San Diego President James T. Harris, “Our board reflects the power of collaboration across private, public and community college lines. We are honored to have these individuals with us.”

“LEAD California is grateful to have Presidents Pitchford and Jiménez-Sandoval join our Executive Board. As we leverage our 34-year history as a newly re-launched organization, their expertise, knowledge and leadership are perfect complements to steward our organization forward,” said Dr. Elaine K. Ikeda, Executive Director of LEAD California. “I couldn’t be more excited to work with them and look forward to meaningful and productive years ahead!”



President Nicola Pitchford is the 10th President of Dominican University of California, and has served in this capacity since 2021. Her focus on student success is grounded in a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and to Dominican’s ideals of study, reflection, community, and service. At Dominican, President Pitchford served previously as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty (2014-2021), Acting President (2018), and Dean of the School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (2011-2014), now the School of Liberal Arts and Education.

Fresno State President Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval was appointed in 2021. Prior to his administrative appointments, President Jiménez-Sandoval taught at Fresno State for almost 15 years. He served as Dean of Arts and Humanities before his appointment as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs in 2019. President Jiménez-Sandoval is an immigrant to the San Joaquin Valley, having arrived in the region from Mexico as a 10-year-old. He is committed to the Central Valley and is proud that his academic career has been invested in promoting the enrichment of Fresno State students and the region.

Both Presidents Pitchford and Jiménez-Sandoval will serve a three-year term, which began on July 1, 2022. Returning members who will be joining Presidents Pitchford and Jiménez-Sandoval on the LEAD California Executive Board include:

- James T. Harris, Chair and President, University of San Diego
- William A. Covino, President, California State University, Los Angeles
- Cynthia Larive, Chancellor, University of California, Santa Cruz
- Linda Oubré, President, Whittier College
- Thomas Parham, President, California State University, Dominguez Hills

The LEAD California Executive Board has the responsibility to support and promote the mission of LEAD California throughout the state, recommend programs, plans and budgets that sustain and promote the vision and mission of the organization, and exercise oversight and stewardship of the resources of LEAD California.

About LEAD California

LEAD California is a coalition of leading colleges and universities that works to build the collective commitment and capacity of colleges, universities and communities throughout California to advance civic and community engagement for a healthy, just and democratic society. Through innovative programs and initiatives, grant funding, training and technical assistance, professional development and powerful research studies and publications, LEAD California each year invests in and champions students, faculty members, administrators and community members involved in diverse and ground-breaking activities that support and expand civic and community engagement throughout California. For more information, please visit www.leadcalifornia.org.