



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

www.leadcalifornia.org

Page 1 of 2

July 1, 2023

Contact: Liane Louie-Badua

liane@leadcalifornia.org

650-242-5940

LEAD California Executive Board Selects New Member

California State University San Marcos President Ellen Neufeldt joins the 2023-2024 LEAD California Executive Board.

June 30, 2023

Los Angeles, CA – LEAD California announced today that its Executive Board has selected California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) President Ellen Neufeldt to join the 2023-2024 Executive Board. She is committed to fulfilling the civic purposes of higher education and joins a distinguished group of leaders from across California.

“We are absolutely thrilled to have this incredibly dedicated and accomplished leader join our board,” said LEAD California Board Chair and University of San Diego President James T. Harris, “Our board represents a diversity of private, public and community college institutions, all committed to fulfilling the public purpose of higher education. We are honored to welcome President Neufeldt to our board.”

“LEAD California is excited to have President Neufeldt join our Executive Board. As we leverage our 35-year history as a newly re-launched organization, her expertise, knowledge, and leadership are perfect complements to steward our organization forward,” said Dr. Elaine K. Ikeda, Executive Director of LEAD California. “Our Board members are higher education leaders who are committed to preparing college students to become compassionate and ethical leaders who will make our world a better place.”



President Ellen Neufeldt became the fourth president of California State University in July 2019. She is firmly committed to ensuring that CSUSM is a diverse, inclusive and welcome home for students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members. Focusing throughout her career on student success and student social mobility, she cares deeply about being part of the solution to creating pathways for students to achieve their dreams. Under her leadership, the university recently launched a new institutional strategic plan and was ranked first on the 2022 Social Mobility Index. She will serve a three-year term on the LEAD California Executive Board, which begins on July 1, 2023.

Returning members who will be joining President Neufeldt on the LEAD California Executive Board include:

- James T. Harris, Chair and President, University of San Diego
- Saul Jimenez-Sandoval, President, California State University, Fresno
- Nicola Pitchford, Dominican University of California

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 work 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.