

Black Leaders of Influence 2023

February 27, 2023

ASHANTI HANDS, ED.D.

President San Diego Mesa College



Dr. Ashanti Hands is President of San Diego Mesa College. She is an equity-minded practitioner with a deep commitment to student success. She provides leadership for the college-wide initiative to become the leading college of equity and excellence and has launched Student Equity, Guided Pathways, San Diego Promise (free college), basic needs programs and a Call to Action, shining light on structural racism and our responsibility to ensure that Black students have access to equitable outcomes and opportunities to succeed. She was selected to serve as President of San Diego Mesa College in July 2022. Mesa College serves 25,000 students per year and is one of the largest colleges in California, offering 200 associate degree and certificate programs as well as a four-year baccalaureate degree. Hands' involvement in nonprofit and association work includes San Diego Youth Services, San Diego Mesa Foundation and UCSD Black Alumni Scholarship Fund Board.

DR. TINA M. KING

President San Diego College of Continuing Education



Dr. Tina M. King, President of San Diego College of Continuing Education, is a transformative educational leader whose vision is guided by the core values of inclusive excellence, equity-mindedness, and institutional responsibility for student success. King has served in every sector of education in California. She began her career as a middle school teacher in the Compton Unified School District. Her achievements include restoring SDCCE's historic Educational Cultural Complex with a \$35 million renovation grant from Gov. Gavin Newsom's 2021-22 State Budget. ECC has significant ties to American Civil Rights. She launched SDCCE's Black Student Success program and LGBTQIA+ programs to provide students with a safe space, access to resources, and to host training workshops for SDCCE employees. King is an advocate for students, educators and issues affecting student equity. She can be reached at sdcccepresident@sdccd.edu or 619-388-4990

DR. RICKY SHABAZZ

President, Chief Executive Officer San Diego City College



Dr. Ricky Shabazz is President and CEO of San Diego City College. He is an enthusiastic, student-centered leader with over 20 years of executive experience advancing academic achievement, educational equity, diversity and improving access to higher education. He provides executive leadership at one of the most innovative and socially active community colleges in the nation with a focus on student completion, success and social justice. He specializes in enrollment management and cultivating institutional policies, processes and culture that provide personalized student experiences and improve student outcomes. Shabazz was the first person in his family to attend college. His mother was a teenage parent and his father is a veteran. He takes pride in helping students from diverse communities achieve academic excellence and building highly effective teams. Shabazz serves on the boards of Sharp Hospitals, the San Diego Workforce Partnership, A2MEND and The President's Round Table.

MICHAEL ODU

Vice President of Instructional Services San Diego Miramar College



Dr. Michael Odu has been Miramar College's Vice President of Instruction since 2021. Since 2016, Odu has served at Southwestern College as the District Dean of Mathematics, Science and Engineering. While at Southwestern College, Odu has focused on working with faculty, deans and staff through participatory governance structures to promote academic integrity, facilitate innovation and develop clear goals and objectives that serve students. Odu served 14 years as a professor of Mathematics at Hillsborough Community College in Tampa, Florida. He holds a Ph.D. in Mathematics Education and a M.S. in Mathematical Sciences. In highlighting his experience as an administrator, Odu emphasizes an equity-minded and progressive approach in academic and operational leadership, drawing decision-making from data and with an eye on solid pedagogical approaches to curriculum development and review. He is a board member at Jackie Robinson YMCA and a member of Sigma Pi Phi.



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Urban League of
San Diego County



MAXWELL ASHA
International
Communications
Network, Inc. CEO/COO



GAIL E. BAKER, PhD
University of
San Diego



REGIE BRANCH
Airmobile The
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Moran News



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Migrant Subcontractor



**TAMARA Y.
CROWDER**
Trinity Church



RISHI DELEEM-SELERY
Cabrillo College
Substance Use
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SAC



**REGINA DIXON-
REEVES, PhD**
University of San Diego



DHEQUITA FALLS
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San Diego College
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Scripps Childrens
Hospital San Diego



**DR. RICKY
SHABAT**
San Diego City
College



SEAN SPEAR
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Advantage



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AMBER THOMAS
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& Jeronika



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The Wine Joint



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DON WELLS
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LEE MILLS-EVINS
ASAC



**J. LUKE WOOD,
PH.D.**
San Diego State
University



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Chief Legal
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