



10 years YOUNG PROFESSIONALS SUMMIT

SESSIONS & SPEAKER BIOS

★ KEYNOTE SPEAKER



SUSY CAMPOS

Producer, Disney Television Animation

Susy Campos was born in Mexico and raised in California. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Animation and has over 18 years of animation experience in Production. She's worked on different animated series such as Foster's Home for Imaginary Friends, Adventure Time, Samurai Jack, Craig of the Creek, and currently producing Phineas and Ferb at Disney TV Animation. Having worked in different areas of production, Susy combines her knowledge and passion for animation to assemble creative teams that can bring authentic stories and visual representation to our communities.

★ FROM INTERVIEW TO OFFER: NAVIGATING THE FULL JOB SEARCH JOURNEY



MELISSA DIAZ

Vice President, Senior Talent Acquisition Consultant, City National Bank

With over 25 years of experience, Melissa Diaz is a Talent Acquisition Executive. She has a dynamic range of experience recruiting for prestigious companies within the banking, non-profit, legal and aerospace industries. She currently recruits for City National Bank within their Treasury Management Solutions, Community Banking and Office of the President divisions. As a first generation college graduate and professional, she builds a diverse pipeline of talent through partnerships with community organizations dedicated to developing first generation college graduates. Melissa currently volunteers with Food Finders and shares their commitment to eliminate hunger and food waste while improving nutrition in food-insecure communities. Committed to the belief that everyone should have access to affordable, quality healthcare, she is a former board member for Northeast Community Clinics, which provides medical care to uninsured/underinsured, low-income residents of Los Angeles County. As an advocate for inclusivity, she also sat on the board of CHIME Institute, a national leader in development and implementation of inclusive education. Melissa is the former President of the Bunker Hill Toastmasters club in Downtown Los Angeles. She is a state champion speaker and enjoys speaking to groups about utilizing LinkedIn to expand their networks and building interview skills.

✦ FROM PAYCHECK TO PORTFOLIO: YOUR FIRST STEPS IN INVESTING



NATASHA MILLER

Wealth Management Advisor, U.S. Bank

Natasha A. Miller is an Investment Relationship Manager and Wealth Management Advisor based in Burbank, CA, currently working with U.S. Bancorp Investments, Inc. She has over 20 years of experience in financial advising and began her career in the financial industry in 1994. Natasha specializes in; investment planning, retirement and legacy planning, business succession strategies, charitable gifting, and goals-based wealth management.

Her certifications include Series 63, 65, and 66, and she operates under a fee-only structure (percentage of assets, no commissions). Natasha has previously worked at, Morgan Stanley, Bancwest Investment Services, M&T Securities, and SunTrust Investment Services before joining U.S. Bancorp Investments in 2021.

Outside of work, Natasha volunteers with Soroptimist International, enjoys gardening, reading, and spending time with her kids. Nazmoon, 26, Elliott 22 and Dominic, 16.



KARLA MENA ESCOBAR

Client Relationship Consultant, U.S. Bank, HCLP '23

Karla Mena Escobar is a first-generation Latina and a dedicated advocate for financial literacy and community empowerment. As the first in her family to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from California State University Fullerton and her Master of Business Administration from Pepperdine University, Karla combines her academic achievements with over seven years of experience in the banking industry. Currently, she serves as a Client Relationship Consultant at U.S. Bank, where she manages and mentors a team of twelve high school seniors at the Mountain View High School U.S. Bank Branch in El Monte. Through her leadership, she equips young professionals with essential skills in finance, leadership, and professional growth. Karla is passionate about creating opportunities for underserved communities, particularly by teaching financial literacy to Latinas and empowering them to make informed financial decisions. Her dedication to community outreach is evident through her involvement on various boards, including serving as the Marketing Director for the Latino Business Student Association at California State University Fullerton, and as Treasurer for Fullerton's Fashion Association. As a 2023 HOPE College Leadership Program Scholar, Karla's mission is to inspire and uplift others, paving the way for the next generation of Latinas to succeed professionally and personally.

✦ THE POWER OF PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS: NETWORKING

CLAUDIA DURÓN BURKE

Development Talent Marketplace Manager, The Walt Disney Company



Amanda Palacios is a community journalist for ABC7 covering stories in the North San Fernando Valley. She officially joined the team as a community journalist in October of 2021 after working as an intern, news assistant, freelance assignment editor and video journalist at KABC. Amanda is an alumna of California State University, Fullerton, where she studied broadcast journalism. During her time at CSUF, Amanda was part of the Titan TV sports team where she was a sports reporter. Amanda is a SoCal native and grew up in Chino Hills. She is grateful for the privilege to report on stories that are affecting the North San Fernando Valley communities. When Amanda is not working, she enjoys spending time with her family, playing golf and traveling to new places.

✦ CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YPS

BRANDON DEHOYOS

Vice President, Community Engagement & Development, ABC7



Since 2015, Brandon De Hoyos has applied his passion for people and inclusive storytelling to help more of ABC Owned Television Station's audience feel seen and heard. In February, De Hoyos was named ABC7 Los Angeles' new vice president of community engagement. In this capacity, he collaborates with the Eyewitness News team and local leaders to reflect and serve diverse communities across Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties. In addition to responding to breaking news and weather emergencies, connecting KABC-TV's viewers with vital community resources, De Hoyos ideates and produces an array of content aligned with Disney cause campaigns and ABC7 priorities, including ABC7 Feed SoCal and ABC7 Spark of Love Toy Drive.

In January, as ABC13 Houston's director of community engagement, De Hoyos partnered with Disney to bring aid to Alvin, Texas after a deadly EF-2 tornado impacted homes, businesses and destroyed an elementary school. When officials said Walt Disney Elementary would need to be relocated from its home of 46 years, ABC13 and Disney joined forces to donate more than \$75,000 in school supplies, books and educational resources to replace what teachers lost in the storm.

In 2024, De Hoyos launched KTRK's first new initiative in nearly 20 years, ABC13's Share Your School Supplies Drive, helping more than 800 teachers start the year with the resources they needed in partnership with Houston Food Bank's Teachers Aid program.

In his first year as director, De Hoyos helped lead the station through the COVID-19 pandemic by positioning KTRK-TV as a virtual gathering place for the community. De Hoyos executive produced more than 70 hours of long-form advocacy journalism through the Action 13 Town Hall series, making space for conversations around domestic violence, harassment against Asian Americans, health care disparities in the Black and Hispanic communities, and violence against the LGBTQ+ community, especially transgender women of color.

✦ YOUR NEXT CHAPTER: MAPPING OUT POST-COLLEGE PATHWAYS

LUSANGELIS RAMOS

Researcher, HCLP '25, Moderator



Lusangelis Ramos is a researcher at the intersection of science and global public health policy & equity. She recently graduated from Yale University with a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience and a Certificate in Global Health Studies. Born in Venezuela and raised in Brooklyn, her interest in global health centers on health equity and addressing health disparities across borders. She is dedicated to making the fruits of scientific findings accessible to all communities for a more just world. This fall, Lusangelis is an incoming Clinical Research Coordinator at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

She has previously studied traditional medicine in Vietnam and investigated how policies affected healthcare accessibility for Venezuelan migrants in Colombia. For two years, she also served as a research assistant at a cognitive neuroscience lab in the Yale School of Medicine, where she contributed to projects assessing the effects of stress on learning and memory. As part of the Yale Global Health Scholars program, she worked on a published policy brief highlighting educational interventions for forcibly displaced children.

Lusangelis has also demonstrated leadership abilities through her active engagement encompassing various Yale-affiliated clubs and organizations. Some of her roles include leading the Venezuelan and Neuroscience organizations and serving as a peer mentor for Student Accessibility Services. As a first-generation student, she cares about making higher education resources more accessible to her community.

ALEXIA IMAN BURQUEZ

Business Partner II: Go-To-Market (GTM), Google, HCLP '19



Alexia, a first-generation Latina, was born in Lynwood, a small city in Southeast Los Angeles (SELA), and raised in Compton, California. As the proud daughter of Mexican immigrant parents, she is passionate about democratizing technology and generational wealth, and dedicated to giving back to her community. Alexia, an alumna of UC Irvine, brings over five years of experience in business operations, project management, account management, and civic engagement across both the public and private sectors. For the past two years, she's been a Business Partner at Google, initially spearheading business operations for the Global Product Solutions (GPS) team and more recently for Google's Go-to-Market (GTM) teams.



KARLA MENA ESCOBAR

Client Relationship Consultant, U.S. Bank, HCLP '23

Karla Mena Escobar is a first-generation Latina and a dedicated advocate for financial literacy and community empowerment. As the first in her family to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from California State University Fullerton and her Master of Business Administration from Pepperdine University, Karla combines her academic achievements with over seven years of experience in the banking industry. Currently, she serves as a Client Relationship Consultant at U.S. Bank, where she manages and mentors a team of twelve high school seniors at the Mountain View High School U.S. Bank Branch in El Monte. Through her leadership, she equips young professionals with essential skills in finance, leadership, and professional growth. Karla is passionate about creating opportunities for underserved communities, particularly by teaching financial literacy to Latinas and empowering them to make informed financial decisions. Her dedication to community outreach is evident through her involvement on various boards, including serving as the Marketing Director for the Latino Business Student Association at California State University Fullerton, and as Treasurer for Fullerton's Fashion Association. As a 2023 HOPE College Leadership Program Scholar, Karla's mission is to inspire and uplift others, paving the way for the next generation of Latinas to succeed professionally and personally.



EMILIA FERGADIOTTI

Business Partner II: Go-To-Market (GTM), Google, RLI-LA '25

Emilia Fergadiotti is a proud UCLA graduate and passionate public servant whose career is rooted in a deep commitment to community and public service. Her journey began with an internship in Washington, D.C., for Congresswoman Nanette Barragán, where she gained invaluable insight into federal policymaking. She later broadened her experience through an internship in the district office of Congressman Jimmy Gomez, directly engaging with constituents and addressing local issues.

Emilia went on to return to Congresswoman Barragán's office as part of a dedicated team focused on improving the lives of constituents and advancing social equity. With over two years of experience in public service, she has developed a strong foundation in legislative work, constituent relations, and community advocacy.

Now, as she begins her legal education at Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles, Emilia remains committed to using her skills and experiences to create meaningful change and uplift our communities.



Table 1: Business Operations

JESSICA DAVIS

Casting Administrator, The Walt Disney Company

Jessica L. Davis is a marketing and branding professional with over a decade of experience in entertainment and media. As a Casting Administrator at Walt Disney Studios, she liaises between studios, productions, SAG-AFTRA, and talent representatives on the business and legal side of casting across various Disney branded films. She began her Disney career in entertainment at the Disneyland Resort and from there bounced around working in various parts of the company. Fluent in Spanish and known for her collaborative leadership, Jessica previously held marketing roles with the Television Academy Foundation and Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association. She holds an MBA from Pepperdine University and a B.S. in Marketing from Cal State Long Beach.



Table 2: Diversity Equity and Inclusion

KAREN HERRERA

Sr. Manager, Digital Integration for the Enterprise Opportunity and Inclusion, The Walt Disney Company

Karen Herrera is a Sr. Manager, Digital Integration for the Enterprise Opportunity and Inclusion team at The Walt Disney Company. She collaborates with teams across the company to develop cohesive digital strategies that enhance the company's inclusion efforts. Previously, she served as Director, Digital Marketing, where she led product development, marketing operations, digital strategy and content initiatives to engage audiences in unique and impactful ways. Before joining Disney, she began her career in media production and eventually advanced to a technology executive role, leading interactive development at NBCUniversal.



Table 3: Business Operations

LAURYN LAWTON

Distribution Operations Associate, TV Mastering

Lauryn Lawton is a Distribution Operations Associate on the Television Mastering team at The Walt Disney Company. She has a Bachelor's degree in Operations Management from California State University, Northridge and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Pepperdine University. After spending six years of her career in retail, she transitioned to her dream company and industry by leveraging the power of authentic networking. As the first woman in her family to earn a Master's degree, as well as having a value for relationship-building, she is passionate about inspiring future generations and helping them find confidence in their own career paths.



Table 4: Law

KARLA MUÑOZ

Attorney, Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers

Karla is an Attorney at Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers, where she works in dependency law. Before applying to law school, Karla worked at an immigrant rights non-profit organization, CARECEN (Central American Resource Center), for five years. She attended Southwestern Law School where she secured an externship with a civil judge at Stanley Mosk Courthouse. In addition, she also served as a law clerk at the Office of the Public Defender in Los Angeles County for both a summer and semester. During her time at Southwestern she served in several leadership roles, including Co-Chair of the Public Interest Law Committee and Chair of the Immigration Law Student Association. For two consecutive years she was a mentor for the First Generation Mentorship Program, a start-up program at Southwestern for first-generation law students, where she was paired with two mentees in their first year at Southwestern.



Table 5: Policy

MARIA MORALES

Director of Statewide Policy, HOPE

María is a proud daughter of immigrants and Latina from Orange, CA. She comes to HOPE after three years of service to the California State Legislature. Most recently, Maria served as a legislative aide for the office of Assemblymember Phil Ting (AD-19) during his tenure as chair of the Assembly Budget committee, working on various policy areas including human services, education and environmental issues. In her role, she was pivotal in securing \$16.5 million in ongoing funding for foster youth supplemental housing in the state budget and successfully ushering over 10 bills to the Governor's desk for a signature. Prior to that, she was an Assembly fellow in the office of Assemblymember Mark Stone (AD-29) where she helped secure \$100 million in funding to develop in-state behavioral health services for youth with complex needs. Maria also served as the board treasurer for the California Latino Capitol Association Foundation (CLCAF) from 2021-2023 and was key in establishing a mentorship program for first-generation Latinx policy professionals. She started her professional career at HOPE as a research and communications fellow in 2019 and is an alumna of the University of Southern California.



Table 6: Nonprofit

CRISTINA GUTIERREZ

Sr. Director of Programs & Partnerships, DIY Girls

Cristina is a nonprofit leader with over a decade of experience advancing equity in STEM education and youth development. As Senior Director of Programs and Partnerships at DIY Girls, she leads initiatives that expand access to hands-on STEM opportunities for girls and gender-expansive youth across the Northeast San Fernando Valley. Cristina is passionate about building community-rooted programs, cultivating meaningful partnerships, and empowering the next generation of innovators through equity, creativity, and collaboration.



Table 7: Business/Tech

ALEXIA IMAN BURQUEZ

Business Partner II: Go-To-Market (GTM), Google, HCLP '19

Alexia, a first-generation Latina, was born in Lynwood, a small city in Southeast Los Angeles (SELA), and raised in Compton, California. As the proud daughter of Mexican immigrant parents, she is passionate about democratizing technology and generational wealth, and dedicated to giving back to her community. Alexia, an alumna of UC Irvine, brings over five years of experience in business operations, project management, account management, and civic engagement across both the public and private sectors. For the past two years, she's been a Business Partner at Google, initially spearheading business operations for the Global Product Solutions (GPS) team and more recently for Google's Go-to-Market (GTM) teams.



Table 8: Higher Education

TRACY COLUNGA, MSW

CEO | Adjunct Faculty, Colunga & Associates | UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs

Tracy M. Colunga is the CEO of Colunga & Associates and Adjunct Faculty at UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs. With over 20 years in local government and civic innovation, Tracy partners with public agencies, corporations, and nonprofits to strengthen community-led programs, strategic planning, and violence prevention efforts.

She previously served as Civic Engagement Director at the Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation at Johns Hopkins University, supporting over 400 cities and training thousands of public leaders in community-centered governance. As the first Latina Chief Innovation Officer in the U.S., she served the City of Long Beach for 16 years, where she led nationally recognized initiatives such as the Safe Long Beach Violence Prevention Plan, Long Beach Justice Lab and My Sister's Keeper Long Beach. Her work contributed to a 24% reduction in crime in the city's highest-crime police beats and helped secure over \$4 million in violence prevention funding.

She is a proud first-generation college graduate and a lifelong advocate for equity, faith in action, and public service.



Table 9: Sports/Community Engagement

ERIKA SANCHEZ

Senior Manager, Community Impact, Angel City Football Club

Erika Sanchez is a community impact leader with more than 15 years of experience developing strategic initiatives in sports and media. She has a proven track record of designing programs that drive equity, deepen community engagement, and deliver measurable outcomes. As Senior Manager of Community Impact at Angel City Football Club, Erika helps lead the club's groundbreaking 10% sponsorship reinvestment model, directing more than \$1 million annually into youth-centered initiatives across Los Angeles. Her work includes launching paid internships for high school students, creative residencies for youth of color, nonprofit leadership trainings, and transition programs that support retired athletes as they pursue new careers. Previously, Erika spent nearly a decade with the Los Angeles Dodgers, where she developed youth engagement programs and led community initiatives that reached thousands of families. She also brings experience from Univision and UC Berkeley, where she honed her skills in storytelling and cross-sector collaboration. A proud UC Berkeley graduate with degrees in Media Studies and Sociology and a minor in Education, Erika is passionate about using the power of sport and storytelling to foster belonging and create opportunities for future leaders.



Table 10: Government

EMILIA FERGADIOTTI

Student | Former Field Aide and Caseworker, Southwestern Law School | Office of Congresswoman Barragán, RLI '25

Emilia Fergadiotti is a proud UCLA graduate and passionate public servant whose career is rooted in a deep commitment to community and public service. Her journey began with an internship in Washington, D.C., for Congresswoman Nanette Barragán, where she gained invaluable insight into federal policymaking. She later broadened her experience through an internship in the district office of Congressman Jimmy Gomez, directly engaging with constituents and addressing local issues.

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