

# PARENT CONFERENCE

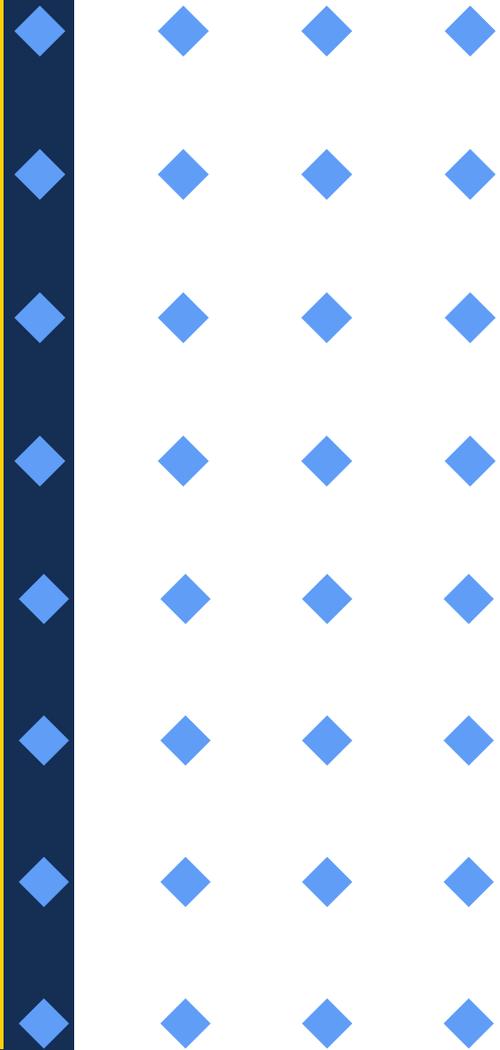


*Dec. 9, 2023*

**"FAMILY ENGAGEMENT  
FOR STUDENT SUCCESS"**



**UNITED WE LEAD**  
*Foundation*



**Santa Maria Joint Union  
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**



# WELCOME

*¡The United We Lead Foundation (UWLF) in partnership with the Santa Maria Joint High School District are pleased to welcome you to the "Family Engagement for Student Success" parent conference.*

*Our conference will include access to parent workshops, a panel of parent leaders, college students, and community professionals, as well as hearing from our special guest speaker, Dr. Roberto Dansie.*

*UWLF believes that access to information, educational resources, and parent support is essential to students' academic success and contributes to the empowerment of families through parental involvement in their children's academic education. This ensures that students have an equal opportunity to learn, thrive, influence, and lead. We hope you enjoy this conference!*

## WHO ARE WE?

*The UWLF is a Social-Mission Driven Organization that has created a diverse network of professionals and leaders, including educators, advocates, innovators, and community members to ensure disadvantaged low-income students have an equal opportunity to learn, thrive, influence, and lead.*

**Visión:** *UWLF envisions a future where all students from underserved communities graduate as college and career-ready, productive, global-minded citizens.*

**Misión:** *Implementar programas educativos basados en datos de alta calidad que capaciten, apoyen e impulsen a los estudiantes a obtener éxito en el mundo del mañana.*

# AGENDA

*Master of Ceremonies: Sol Robinson*

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
8:30am - 9:00am	Parents arrive to the conference / Breakfast	
9:00AM - 9:45AM	WELCOME	Sol Robinson, Parent Services Director, UWLF Deidi Sanchez, Executive Director, UWLF Maribel Vargas-Meza, Family and Community Engagement Manager, SMJUHS
	KEYNOTE SPEAKER: <i>Keys to Family Engagement for Student Success: Attention, Affection, Appreciation, Acceptance.</i>	Dr. Roberto Dansie, PhD Clinical Psychologist   Award-Winning Speaker   Minority Health & Education Leader
9:50AM-10:35AM	Workshop #1: <i>Staying Engaged with Your High School Student</i>	Verónica Magaña, M.Ed.
	Workshop #2: <i>The four purposes: "Live, Learn, Love, Legacy" and adolescent psychology.</i>	Dr. Roberto Dansie, PHD
10:40AM-11:25 AM	Workshop #3: <i>Leadership and Advocacy for Parents</i>	Rocio Fernandez, Parent Educator
	Workshop #4: <i>Postsecondary pathways: CTE, CC's, UC's, private institutions</i>	Sol Robinson, B.S.
11:25 - 11:45AM	Break	
11:45 - 12:45PM	PANEL	Stories and perspectives from a first-generation student, parent leaders, and community leader.
12:50 - 1:30PM	General session: <i>"The Art of Accompaniment"</i>	Dr. Roberto Dansie, PhD
1:30 - 2:00PM	Closing, raffles, lunch "to go"	

# WORKSHOPS

Hora	Título	Descripción	Presentador
9:50AM-10:35AM	<b>OPTION 1:</b> Staying Engaged with Your High School Student	Research shows that children with involved parents are more likely to achieve academic success and do well in life. When parents are engaged in their child's education, they send the message that the family values education. Participants explore ways that parents can stay engaged in their teenagers' lives.	Dr. Roberto Dansie, PhD
9:50AM - 10:35AM	<b>OPTION 2:</b> The four purposes: Live, Learn, Love and Legacy. And the Psychology of Adolescents.	In this workshop, parents will learn and explore the 4 needs of the human being: to live, to learn, to love and to leave a legacy;. At the same time, they will understand the psychology of adolescents and how to enhance their abilities to the maximum.	Verónica Magaña, M.Ed
10:40AM - 11:25AM	<b>OPTION 3:</b> Leadership and Advocacy for Parents	Parents and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect their students. In this workshop, parents will understand what it means to be a leader, the importance of being leaders at home, school and the community and strategies for leadership development skills that are essential for effective advocacy.	Rocio Fernandez, Parent Educator
10:40AM - 11:25AM	<b>OPTION 4:</b> Postsecondary pathways: CTE, CC's, UC's, private institutions	Parents will learn about the different pathways to postsecondary education and the difference between the four types of higher educational institutions, knowing what the options are will allow them to better support their students when it comes to making the right decision.	Sol Robinson, B.S.
12:50PM - 1:30PM	<b>SESIÓN GENERAL:</b> "The Art of Accompaniment"	In this session, parents will learn about the art of effective support and the stages of: Connection, Communication, and Competence.	Dr. Roberto Dansie, PhD

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



### ***Dr. Roberto Dansie, PhD***

Roberto Dansie is a Clinical Psychologist who has been described as the most eloquent speaker in the field of Cultural Diversity. At the age of 9, Roberto was introduced by his grandmother to the healing tradition of his Mayan and Toltec ancestors. Roberto has dedicated his life to working in the health and education fields in a wide range of community settings, developing programs to address psychosocial trauma around the world, and teaching at multiple universities across the United States. He currently serves on Stanford University's Steering Committee for Health Equity and is the author of 7 books.



# WORKSHOP PRESENTERS



## ***Rocio Fernandez***

Rocio Fernandez is a Parent Educator with 28 years in the educational field. She has worked with the Parent Advisory Councils at districts, developing their leadership roles. She loves sharing the love of books while empowering parents to embrace teaching moments in the home. Encouraging parents to be active participants in their child's education is the goal.



## ***Verónica Magana***

Veronica is originally from Mexico City, where she graduated with honors from the National Autonomous University of Mexico with a degree in Psychology. She later graduated from the Complutense University of Madrid, in Spain, with a second degree in Early Childhood Education and Primary Education. At the same university, she completed a master's degree in School Management. Finally, she completed a master's degree in Education, Educational Counseling, at the University of Arkansas, United States.

Throughout her career, she held several positions that have contributed to her personal and professional growth by supporting families, parents, and students. Veronica firmly believes that providing a quality and effective education for parents or guardians and their children is one of the best ways to develop upstanding individuals and create a better world.



## ***Sol Robinson***

Sol Robinson is originally from Guanajuato, Mexico, and immigrated to the United States at the age of 15 with dreams of obtaining a college education in the United States. Sol completed that goal by graduating from California State University, Fresno and earning a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in accounting.

Sol prides herself on understanding the needs of migrant families and marginalized communities, recognizing that access to educational opportunities is limited.

In the last 4 years, Sol has been in charge of empowering and educating migrant parents through various programs that strengthen the bond between parents and the school. Sol believes that the most valuable gift we can leave to our children is precisely that of their education.



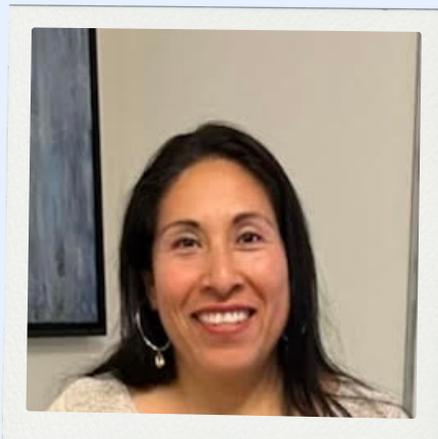
# PANELISTS



**Claudia & Pedro Romero**  
Parents leaders of the Santa  
Maria JUHSD

“For some, unusual experiences can feel like the end of the world. However, for me it was the beginning of a path into the unknown.”

My name is Claudia Romero, and I am the proud mother of Analy, Patricia and Angelica. My husband is Pedro Romero who has been my unconditional support during all these years as well as my partner in countless projects. Without a doubt, our greatest motivation has been our three daughters who were born with different learning abilities. Our daughters have shown us the way to understand autism and the special education system. In our beginnings we created a support group for parents where we share our experiences, help them understand the education system, their rights and responsibilities with the regional center, law, advocacy, services and therapies. When our daughters reached adolescence, we realized that there was no social group for them, so we created one where they could socialize once a week. Along the way we met many people (professionals and parents) from whom we learned. As a tribute to all of them, every day we wake up with the best attitude to continue our journey helping other parents to understand the complex educational system. Today you will discover all your potential to educate your children with values, so that they grow up with strong self-esteem and know how to face obstacles, to inspire them to continue their education, to listen to them, to trust you, to be respectful, to be respected and to be grateful for what they have. Remember that you are the leaders who will make a difference in your family and in your community! Are you ready to continue on your way? Remember, you won't be alone!



**Lus Enriquez**  
Parent leader of the Santa  
Maria JUHSD

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Lus Enriquez is originally from Huajuapán de León, Oaxaca, she was a farm worker and has been involved in different committees since the beginning of her children's education. She has strived to become proficient in English and in 2021 earned her GED. She is a mother of 4, her oldest daughter finished 2 years of college, the second graduated from UC Irvine, the third is in her fourth year at UC Merced, and her son is in grade 10 at Santa Maria High School. She is currently a member of the Parent Council, a member of the Booster Committee, and a member of the Migrant Program Roundtable at Santa Maria High School. In addition, she is a representative on the Region 18 State Parent Advisory Council (SPAC) at the state level and volunteers with the Future Leaders of America (FLA) organization.



# PANELISTS

## **Eulogio Espinoza**

***Interpreting Project Manager at Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueno (CBDIO)***

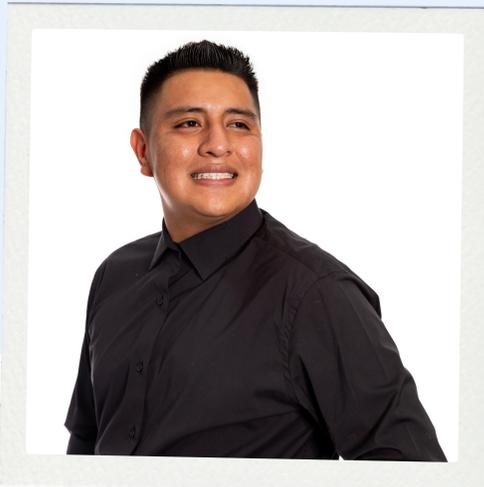


Eulogio Espinoza is originally from San Juan Piñas, Oaxaca. He became a Mixteco Interpreter to assist his community and with a decade of experience in interpreting. He is an advocate for his Indigenous community and co-founder of Oaxaqueñx Youth Encuentro (OYE), a youth-led project that aims to empower the Oaxacan and Indigenous youth throughout the state of California. Currently he serves as the Indigenous Interpreting Program manager for CBDIO, providing interpretation services statewide and nationwide from courts to school parents meetings.



## **Luis Guzmán**

***First generation college student  
California Polytechnic State University, SLO***



Luis Guzman is a final-year student at Cal Poly University in San Luis Obispo, pursuing a degree in Computer Science with a minor in Entrepreneurship. A first-generation university student, Luis's journey embodies the unique blend of challenges and triumphs familiar to many in our community. His academic experience is complemented by significant involvement in student support services, offering him a profound understanding of their vital role in student success. Luis is also the visionary founder of 'Plan for Mi,' a startup that showcases his passion for technology and entrepreneurship, aimed at creating solutions that resonate with cultural values. At the conference, Luis will share his insights on navigating the academic landscape, the obstacles he has overcome, and his perspective on how parents can effectively support their university-bound children.







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**THANK YOU!**



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