



Santa Maria Joint Union
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

PARENT CONFERENCE



**"JUNTOS POR
LA
EDUCACIÓN"**

March 9, 2024



WELCOME

United We Lead Foundation (UWLF) in partnership with the Santa Maria Joint High School District are pleased to welcome you to the "JUNTOS POR LA EDUCACION" parent conference.

Our conference will include access to parent workshops, a panel of parent leaders, a first-generation college professional, as well as hearing from our special guest speaker: former Migrant Education Program (MEP) Director of Region V (Kern county), Jose Porfirio Morales.

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.

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

Mision *Implement high-quality, data-driven educational programs that empower, support, and drive students to succeed in tomorrow's world.*

AGENDA

Master of Ceremonies: Sol Robinson

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTERS
8:30AM - 9:00AM	Parents arrive to the conference / Breakfast	
9:00AM - 9:45AM	WELCOME Ice Breaker	Sol Robinson, Parent Services Director, UWLF Maribel Vargas-Meza, Family and Community Engagement Manager, SMJUHS
	A message from Dr. Dansie	Dr. Roberto Dansie, PhD Clinical Psychologist Award-Winning Speaker Minority Health & Education Leader
9:50AM-10:35AM	Workshop #1: <i>Helping your teen student develop good study habits and goal setting skills.</i>	Verónica Magaña, M.Ed.
	Workshop #2: <i>Creating a study plan for High School: a step-by-step guide for parents.</i>	Sol Robinson, B.S.
	Workshop #3: <i>Communication: the key to academic success.</i>	Rocio Fernandez, Parent Educator
10:40AM-11:25 AM	Workshops #4, 5 y 6 (Same topics, parents rotate)	
11:30 AM - 12:00PM	LUNCH & RAFFLES	
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	PANEL <i>The impact of family engagement and higher education opportunities.</i>	Santa Maria JUHS parents and first-generation college professional
1:00 PM - 1:40 PM	KEYNOTE SPEAKER <i>"Help Along the Road Less Traveled"</i>	José Porfirio Morales Owner/Consultant Educator Former Director of the California Migrant Education Program (MEP) Region 5
1:40 PM - 2:00PM	CLOSING, RAFFLES	

WORKSHOPS

Time	Topic	Description	Presenter
FIRST ROTATION 9:50AM-10:35AM SECOND ROTATION 10:40AM - 11:25AM	OPTION 1: Helping your teen student develop good study habits and goal setting skills.	Through this workshop, parents will be equipped with new knowledge to help them support their teen students in developing healthier study habits and understand the importance of goal setting, which is an integral part of their student's academic success.	Verónica Magaña, M.Ed.
	OPTION 2: Creating a study plan for High School: a step-by-step guide for parents	Planning for college is key during High School years. In this workshop, parents will learn ways they can support their students by creating a study plan that will help them achieve their academic goals and be better prepared for college upon graduation from High School.	Sol Robinson, B.S.
	OPTION 3: Communication: the key to academic success	Establishing and keeping the lines of communication open between parents, students and teachers is critical for academic success. In this workshop, parents will learn practical ideas and strategies on how to build and maintain effective communication between you, your student, and your student's teachers.	Rocio Fernandez, Parent educator

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

José Porfirio Morales



Son of Maria de Los Angeles and Porfirio Morales, Jose was brought to the United States just after he turned one. Growing up in a working-class, immigrant family that supported education, and emphasized service at the cornerstone of his life. After moving a few times, due to work transfers, the family settled in Arvin, California which helped further mold Jose during his formative years.

Soon after high school, he joined the Navy, working his way to Petty Officer Second Class. After returning to Kern County, he attended Bakersfield College and UC Santa Barbara. Jose married Laura Morales and wonderful things started to happen more quickly. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, his Teaching Credential, Administrative Services Credential, and Masters in Education at CSU, Bakersfield and had two children, Olivia and Max, who are now fantastic teachers and coaches in their own right.

Jose feels fortunate to have been able to return to his alma mater as a teacher, coach, and all-around good guy. After teaching, he went to McFarland High School as a Vice Principal. He accepted the position of Coordinator for the Migrant Education Program and after fourteen months in that position he was promoted to Director of Migrant Education Program with the Kern County Superintendent of Schools where he spent his final 23 of his 31 years in public education.

Although Jose is officially retired, he continues to support the local education community. He continues to serve the San Joaquin Valley's educational community as a trainer, consultant, and provider of student services with Balanced Educational Support & Training (BEST). For example, the development of virtual and remote learning programs at the start of pandemic, implementing hybrid learning models, and transitioning back to more of an in-classroom learning model have all been part of the support and training that BEST has provided to local agencies after it became critical when corona virus safety shut down schools.

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

Angelica Cisneros

Parent leader - Santa Maria JUHSD

Angelica Cisneros is originally from Puruándiro, Michoacán Mexico. She migrated to the United States 29 years ago with her husband in search of better opportunities. Angelica currently resides in the city of Santa Maria, CA and works in agriculture, picking red and black blackberries. Angelica is the mother of 6 children between the ages of 33 and 7. Angelica only had the opportunity to complete secondary education in her home country, she firmly believes that education is the door to better opportunities and a better quality of life. That's why Angelica decided to enroll in a program of study to earn her GED, in addition she enrolled in Allan Hancock Community College where she completed non-credit ESL classes to learn English and received her first childcare certificate. Angelica is about to start ESL credit classes at this college. Her greatest motivation has been her children, she can better support them in their own journey by setting an example herself.



Juvenal Cortes

Parent leader - Santa Maria JUHSD

Juvenal Cortés is originally from the state of Oaxaca, Mexico and immigrated to the United States at the age of 14, currently residing in the city of Santa Maria which has been his home for the past 30 years. Juvenal is the father of 4 children ages 22, 20, 17 and 8. He believes that parental support is important for children and their academic success. Juvenal has been a member of several school committees and has been actively involved in the academic education of his children. Like many migrant parents, he was unable to continue his education beyond middle school in Mexico, but that has not been an impediment for him, and he continues to prepare day by day. Being an involved parent has allowed him to provide his children with the support they need in their education and achieve their goals.



PANELISTS

Wendy Enriquez Villalba

*First generation college professional
Epidemiologist - Department of Public Health, Santa Barbara County*



Wendy Enriquez-Villalba is an epidemiologist working in the Department of Public Health Santa Barbara County. Her personal experience and that of her family and close friends is what led her to pursue a career in public health. After immigrating from Oaxaca, Mexico to the United States; her parents worked as field workers following the seasons of work. Eventually, they put down roots in Santa Maria, which is where she grew up along with her three siblings.

Growing up, she noticed many differences in access to health care, education, and resources in general. Often, people in her community who were Mexicans of indigenous roots, immigrants, and farmworkers, just like her parents, struggled to navigate the health care and education systems due to language, culture, and other barriers. She saw how this affected both their lives and the lives of their children. Although she didn't know how to express what she was witnessing, she often wondered what she could do to change these systems and increase access to health and information. This led her to pursue degrees in Public Health Policy (BA) and Public Health Sciences (BS) from the University of California, Irvine. During the pandemic, she returned to the Central Coast and worked for the local county's Disease Containment Unit. Eager to pursue a career where she could positively impact the community that raised her, she joined the California Department of Public Health's California Pathways to Public Health Program, where she was assigned to the local county Epidemiology Unit as an intern. This experiential learning program would provide her with the skills to combine her formal education and lived experiences to help keep health equity at the center of her work as an epidemiologist.





NOTES





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THANK YOU!



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