

Leading with Courage

A professional learning experience on
the African American presence at UC

Courageous Leadership and Allies Panel Discussion

Sonja Colbert, Business & Technology Executive Officer, UC Davis

Kellie Butler, Dean, Folsom Lake Community College

Kawami Evans, Director, UC Davis

Emily Galindo, Interim Vice Chancellor, UC Davis

Don Hunt, Associate Vice Chancellor, UC Davis

Courageous Leadership and Allies

- One of the most important attributes in leadership is courage.
 - You need to have the courage to take on your responsibilities, to take a strong stance on tough topics, to speak up despite the opposition as well as dealing with the consequences.
 - In addition, leaders needs to develop and cultivate impactful allies.

Introduction - Moderator



**Sonja Colbert
Business and
Technology
Executive Officer
UC Davis**

Sonja Colbert serves as Business and Technology Executive Officer in the Offices of the Chancellor and Provost (OCP), which consists of approximately thirty departments, such as Academic Affairs, Mondavi, and Enrollment Management. In her role, Sonja oversees the finance, business, human resources and information technology groups in support of UC Davis' strategic and operational objectives. Sonja joined UC Davis in 2006 and has held a variety of positions, including Operations Manager and Fiscal Officer. In 2018, she received a UC award for her systemwide leadership impact.

Sonja also serves as the Interim Chief of Staff for Aggie Square. She is responsible for project management, operations, and assisting with the overall implementation. Before joining UC Davis, Sonja worked in the private sector as a finance and business executive.

Sonja holds a B.S. in Accounting from CSU Sacramento and MBA from UC Davis Graduate School of Management. She is also a graduate of the UC Coro Systemwide Leadership Collaborative. In her spare time, Sonja volunteers for several community organizations.

Introduction - Panelist



Kellie Butler
Dean
Folsom Lake
College

Kellie Butler is the Dean of Student Services at Folsom Lake College. Her previous experience includes UC Davis where she was the Assistant Dean for Graduate Studies, responsible for the strategic planning, leadership and organizational management. Prior to her tenure at UC Davis, she served as Executive Director of the Center for Civic Engagement at Rice University, where she led the development and implementation of programs, curriculum, and partnerships that fostered civic engagement research and activities allowing students and faculty to collaborate with local, national, and global communities. Kellie has also been a faculty member at Pennsylvania State University, teaching Political Science to both graduate and undergraduate students. Kellie holds a PhD in Political Science from Rice University, a MA in Political Science from Rice and a BA in Political Science from Texas A&M.

In addition, Kellie is an active volunteer who enjoys working with young people and serving her local community. She is committed to helping first generation and underrepresented students successfully navigate the pipeline of college enrollment to college completion.

Kellie is married to David Butler, MD, and they have a son, David Jr. (a rising college sophomore) and an adult daughter, Sidney. They currently reside in Folsom, CA.

Introduction - Panelist



Kawami Evans
Director
UC Davis

Dr. Kawami Evans is a student affairs practitioner who has worked within the University of California system for the past 15 years. Currently, Kawami serves as the Director of Inclusion and Organizational Development in Student Housing and Dining Services at UC Davis. In this role, she provides strategic leadership and consultation to the department on matters pertaining to the education and implementation of inclusion, leadership and organizational development efforts. She sits on several university committees including the African American Faculty and Staff Association and the University Religious Council. Her research interests are spirituality, leadership, holistic development, student affairs, and organizational effectiveness.

Kawami is a proud east coaster from Bridgeport, Connecticut. She holds a Bachelor's degree in History and Social Science from Eastern Connecticut State University, a Master's of Education degree in Educational Policy and Research Administration from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and an Educational Doctorate in Educational Management and Leadership from Drexel University.

Introduction - Panelist



Emily Galindo
Interim Vice
Chancellor
UC Davis

Emily Galindo currently serves the campus as the Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, a division of the campus that includes many student support services. Prior to this role she was an Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and the Executive Director of Student Housing and Dining Services, providing leadership for campus housing, dining services, orientation, first year experience programs, and divisional information technology. She started her career at University of California, Davis in 1984. In 1992, she joined the Student Housing Department. She served as the Associate Director/Administration from 1996 until 2007, briefly served as the Interim Director of Student Housing and was appointed the Director of Student Housing in 2008. In 2010 she was appointed to an AVC role for Student Affairs and she began her Interim Vice Chancellor role in May 2018.

Emily earned her Bachelor's degree in Organizational Behavior from the University of San Francisco and her Master's degree in Business Administration from Golden Gate University, San Francisco, California. She has served and chaired multiple committees and task forces at UC Davis and served as co-director of the Shared Services Center for six months in 2016. As a long time campus citizen she continues to focus on student success initiatives, organizational excellence, fiscal responsibility and operational efficiencies.

Introduction - Panelist



**Don Hunt
Associate
Vice
Chancellor
UC Davis**

Don Hunt joined UC Davis in July 2019 as the Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management, which oversees Undergraduate Admissions, Financial Aid and Scholarships, the Office of the University Registrar, and Enrollment Management Analytics. Don came from California State University, Sacramento, where he served as associate vice president of Enrollment and Student Services since 2015. He has over 14 years in higher education, mostly in executive positions including registrar, and whose responsibilities also have included recruitment, admissions and retention; student information systems; financial services; and building partnerships internally and externally to establish pipelines to higher education.

Before Sacramento State, Don held the following administrative positions: assistant vice president and university registrar at York University (Toronto); registrar and executive director at the University of Lethbridge (Alberta, Canada); interim associate vice president of Student Affairs at the University of Lethbridge; deputy registrar at Case Western Reserve University (Cleveland); and interim director of registrar operations at Cleveland State University.

Don, an Army veteran, is completing an Ed.D. in educational leadership, and holds a Master of Science degree in technology management and a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration, both from the University of Maryland University College.

Panel Question #1

- **How do you navigate being a courageous leader?**

Panel Question #2

- **What is an ally? Please share your experience with allies.**

Q&A

Panel Question #3

- **What advice would you give an aspiring professional?**