

# The UC Davis Forums on the Public University and the Social Good

Monday, April 9th, 2018

## Community Colleges: Modern-Day Engines for Economic and Social Mobility

### Francisco Rodriguez

Chancellor, Los Angeles Community College District



Francisco Rodriguez is the chancellor of the Los Angeles Community College District, the largest community college district in the nation. In his 30-year career in public higher education, he has championed policies that expand access to higher education and financial aid, advocated for undocumented students and student-veterans, and promoted diversity, equity, and inclusion for underrepresented communities, with a particular emphasis on young Latino and African American males.

A recipient of prestigious awards and recognitions, Dr. Rodriguez currently holds numerous national and state leadership positions, including chair of the National Science Foundation's Advisory Committee for the Directorate of Education and Human Resources; director of the Board of Higher Education and Workforce of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine; and president of the California Association of Latino Community College Trustees and Administrators Association (CALCCTA).

He is proud to be a first-generation English-language learner and son of immigrant factory workers. He earned a bachelor's degree in Chicana and Chicano studies and a master's degree in community development, both from UC Davis, and a Ph.D. in education from Oregon State University. He is a past president of the Cal Aggie Alumni Association and past board member of the UC Davis Foundation.

In this forum, Dr. Rodriguez will proceed from the observation that America's community colleges—which are the most egalitarian institutions of public higher education, serving more than 12 million students each year—play a leading role in supporting social mobility as well as our nation's strength, economic health and prosperity, and democracy. He will address how community colleges currently face an array of formidable challenges, including demands to increase access and equity; raise completion and graduation rates; and improve postgraduate outcomes. Indeed, they must meet these challenges in a climate of decreasing public confidence in higher education, staggering enrollments, and segregated educational attainment. Dr. Rodriguez will describe how community colleges provide the best return on investment in higher education.

#### **Lecture:**

3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Multipurpose Room

Student Community Center

#### **Reception:**

4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Multipurpose Room

Student Community Center

The logo for UC Davis, featuring the words "UC DAVIS" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

**Sponsors Include:** The Office of the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, the Community and Regional Development Program, the Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies, the Community Development Graduate Group, the School of Education, the Center for Regional Change