



Press Release

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YOSEMITE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
Modesto Junior College & Columbia College

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dr. Lena Tran Named Interim Chancellor of Yosemite Community College District

Experienced leader poised to advance student success and workforce development across the District

MODESTO, CA. – Dr. Lena Tran has been named Interim Chancellor of the Yosemite Community College District (YCCD), which oversees Columbia College in Sonoma and Modesto Junior College in Modesto. Her appointment was approved by the YCCD Board of Trustees at the May 14, 2025 regular meeting of the Yosemite Community College Board of Trustees.

Dr. Tran has served as President of Columbia College since March 2022, where she has championed workforce development, student success, and strategic partnerships with local industry and education partners. Prior to joining Columbia, she held executive roles at San Jose City College and Evergreen Valley College, where she was known for her innovation in program development and her strong industry ties with companies such as Microsoft, Google, Honda, and Apple.

“Dr. Tran’s proven leadership and deep understanding of student needs make her exceptionally qualified to serve as Interim Chancellor,” said Board President Dr. Milton Richards. “She has consistently demonstrated a commitment to improving access to education, developing workforce pipelines, and enhancing student success across the district. Under her leadership, Columbia College has earned national recognition for its academic and career programs, expanded strategic partnerships, and climbed in national rankings. Her vision and ability to deliver measurable results make her the right person to guide the District during this transition.”

During her tenure at Columbia College, Dr. Tran expanded high-impact academic and career pathways while emphasizing equity, access, and student-centered services. She also prioritized support for faculty and staff, increasing professional development and building collaborative partnerships throughout the region.

“I am honored and humbled to serve as Interim Chancellor of this incredible district,” said Dr. Tran. “I look forward to working with our dedicated trustees, faculty, staff, and community partners at both Modesto Junior College and Columbia College to create a future where every student has the opportunity to thrive. Together, we will strengthen our institutions, expand student support services, and increase resources through fundraising and grant development.”

Tran’s academic background includes a Doctorate in Education in Organizational and Leadership Development from the University of San Francisco, an MBA from Seton Hall University, and a Bachelor’s degree in International Business from Montclair State University. She is also a former Fulbright Scholar and recipient of numerous leadership awards, including recognition as one of the *Silicon Valley Business Journal’s* “Top 40 Under 40.”

Dr. Tran succeeds Chancellor Henry Yong, who has served the District with distinction since 2017.

A photo of Dr. Tran is provided below.

About Yosemite Community College District (YCCD): Established in 1921, YCCD has grown to become one of the largest community college districts in California, covering nearly 4,000 square miles across Tuolumne and Stanislaus Counties, as well as parts of San Joaquin, Merced, Calaveras, and Santa Clara Counties. The district comprises two colleges: Modesto Junior College and Columbia College. YCCD is dedicated to responding to the needs of its diverse community through excellence in teaching, learning, and support programs. Learn more at: <https://www.yosemite.edu/index.html>.

About Columbia College: Columbia College is a public community college in Sonoma, California. The college is part of the YCCD, which also administers MJC in nearby Modesto, California. Centered in the Sierra foothills, Columbia College offers students of diverse backgrounds many opportunities for discovery and success. Through a supportive and engaging learning environment, 4,000 students annually master foundational skills, explore their passions, attain degrees and certificates, and pursue career and transfer pathways. We collaborate with surrounding communities to cultivate intellectual, cultural, and economic vitality. Columbia College inspires students to become inquisitive, creative, and thoughtful life-long learners. Learn more at: www.gocolumbia.edu.

About Modesto Junior College (MJC): Founded in 1921, MJC has been serving Modesto and surrounding communities for more than 100 years. It is the mission of the college to empower students to discover opportunities and reach their goals through access to and inclusion in higher education. As a cornerstone in our community, MJC creates and promotes equity in education for every member of our diverse population. Learn more at: <https://www.mjc.edu/>.



Dr. Lena Tran

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