



Dr. Lilia Chavez

Monday, November 27, 2023

9:15am – 10:15am – Finalist Forum

[Link to Forum](#)

(<https://www.youtube.com/@yosemitecommunitycollegedi8320>)

Dr. Lilia Chavez, a Chicana/Latina social and spiritual activist/educator, is committed to collaborating with underrepresented, underprepared, and underserved communities.

Presently, she serves as the Vice President of Student Services at Merritt College. Notably, in October 2022, she secured a \$3 million Hispanic Serving Institute grant from the Department of Education for Merritt College's ASPIRA Project. This grant aims to enhance the teaching and learning culture, fostering student persistence in academic pursuits.

Previously, Dr. Lilia Chavez held roles as the Dean of Special Programs & Grants, overseeing various initiatives, and as the Director of Student Activities & Campus Life, guiding Merritt College's Associated Students (ASMC). Her leadership was pivotal in elevating ASMC to one of the top college programs, recognized by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) for increased student engagement.

Beyond Merritt College, Dr. Chavez contributed significantly to programs and grants at San Francisco State University (SFSU), directing initiatives like the Mandatory Academic Probation Program (MAPP) and the collaborative Pass the Torch Program in basic skills.

An advocate for student empowerment, Dr. Chavez has presented at conferences and authored books focusing on student voice and educational equity. Her work extends to writing community grants for reducing violence and enhancing educational access for underserved communities.

Educationally, Dr. Chavez holds a doctoral degree in International & Multicultural Education from the University of San Francisco, a Masters in Rehabilitation Counseling from San Francisco State University a Bachelors from the University of San Francisco and an Associate's degree in Liberal Arts from Berkeley City College. Her research concentrates on factors affecting Chicano/Latino student success in community colleges, emphasizing personal empowerment and voice development.

With over a decade of teaching experience, Dr. Chavez has designed culturally sensitive leadership programs, notably for AB540 and immigrant students. She emphasizes social justice, human transformation, and student success at all levels, believing that addressing education inequities aligns with her life purpose.

Residing in Manteca, Dr. Chavez enjoys spending time with her family, going on nature walks, performing with an all-female Mariachi Band, and engaging in holistic healing practices centered on body, spirit, and mind. She passionately advocates, "Success begins with your desire to change. Dare yourself to elevate your dreams and transform your life!"