



WOMEN

IN LEADERSHIP 2025

Our panelists have likely addressed many of your questions this morning. However, if you have more in mind, we've compiled a few additional questions that we think young professionals like you may find interesting. When it's time for the Q&A, feel free to ask!

- How do you balance career, personal life and passions? Is there such a thing as balance?
- As a leader, how do you stay mindful of who's at the table and who's missing?
- What advice would you give to the next generation of female leaders?
- What are some of the leadership skills that helped you move up in your organization?
- Was finding a mentor part of your leadership journey?
- What is the best leadership advice you have ever received?
- What is the importance of mentorship and connections with those outside of your workplace?





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Stay connected with our panelists!

Connect with our panelists on LinkedIn, or send them an email to connect!

Cassandra H. B. Jennings | President & CEO, St. HOPE
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Cassandra H. B. Jennings is the CEO of St. HOPE and oversees a family of nonprofits committed to revitalizing underserved communities through high quality public education and economic development. St. HOPE owns and operates 40 Acres in Sacramento which includes The Guild Theater, Esther Park, Underground Books and investments in numerous ventures to create jobs, grow businesses and bring services and opportunities to the Oak Park community. Her partnership with the St. HOPE Public Schools helps to enhance the experience, access and opportunities to support the TK-12 scholars to academic success and college and career. Cassandra was previously the President & CEO of the Greater Sacramento Urban League (GSUL) where she was instrumental in the fight for equity and justice, key state legislation and building impactful health and equity initiatives, housing counseling services, business support center and robust upskilling and reskilling programs that lead to good paying jobs. Cassandra led GSUL to thrive through the COVID Pandemic and serve the community with food delivery, workforce preparedness and placement, voter registration and education, youth services and leadership development, Census and vaccination outreach and housing services. Cassandra has served our community in numerous capacities including as Senior Advisor to Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson, Sacramento Assistant City Manager and Deputy Executive Director for the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA). While with SHRA, Cassandra was the lead for the \$84M redevelopment of Franklin Villa to Phoenix Park, First time Homebuyer programs, multifamily housing development and neighborhood services throughout the County. Cassandra currently serves on numerous boards including Golden 1 Credit Union, Norwood Avenue Housing Corporation, Mondavi Center Advisory Council, Sacramento Metro Chamber Executive Board, Sacramento Steps Forward, California Community College Black/African American Advisory Panel, PRIDE Industries Advisory Board, and Sacramento City Unified School District African American Advisory Committee. She is an active member of Saint Paul Church of Sacramento and the Sacramento Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. Cassandra and her husband, Rick, have been married 46 years and enjoy traveling, the theater, bowling, attending sporting events, music and spending time with their adult children and their spouses and six grandchildren. Cassandra is a servant leader.



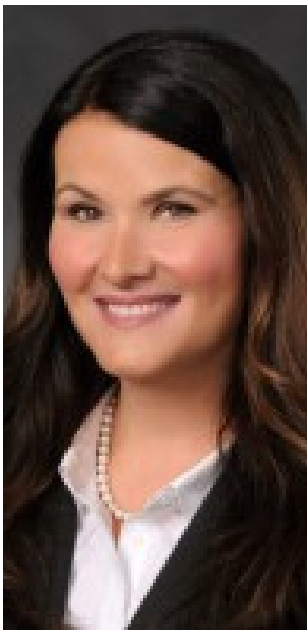
Pat Fong Kushida | President & CEO, CalAsian Chamber
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Pat Fong Kushida is the President and CEO of the California Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce (CalAsian Chamber) and the Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce (SacAsian Chamber). She has built both organizations into the third largest economic development/chamber(s) organization in California. With over 26 years of building public/private partnerships, Pat's success has been creating pathways for California's 724,000 plus AAPI small businesses, and minority and disadvantaged small businesses and its workforce to fully compete in California's diverse and growing economy.

Under Pat's leadership, significant legislation has been passed to help California's ethnically diverse small businesses compete for public contracts and ensuring that small business utilization is a priority. Pat's focus on ensuring that small businesses can effectively compete for public and private contracts has allowed her to build multiple federal, state, and local technical assistance programs that have helped thousands of small businesses start, retain, and grow. This approach has led to multiple partnerships developing innovative workforce programs that complement the supply chain technical assistance work.

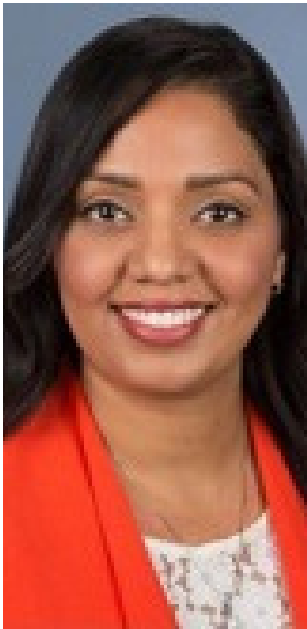
Erica Taylor | Community Impact and Public Relations Officer at Golden 1 Credit Union
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Erica Taylor serves as the Senior Vice President – Community Impact and Public Relations Officer at Golden 1 Credit Union, one of the nation's largest credit unions serving more than 1 million members throughout California. She joined Golden 1 in 2015 and oversees the organizations external communications, government relations, community partnerships, corporate giving, and financial education. With a genuine passion for making a positive impact, Erica has led numerous initiatives for Golden 1 aimed at addressing local needs, volunteering, charitable partnerships, and social programs.

Erica earned a master's degree in communication studies from California State University, Sacramento and a bachelor's degree in journalism from Humboldt State University. She currently serves on the board of directors of Downtown Sacramento Partnership, Sacramento Metro Chamber, Sacramento Covered, and Valley Vision. In 2024, she was named the Credit Union Times' Luminary of the Year for Social Impact and in 2023, was awarded the Social Impact award by the California Credit Union League. Erica currently lives in Sacramento with her husband, Christopher, and their daughters, Avery (17) and Paige (14).

Jita Buño | Associate Chief Operating Officer of UC Davis Health
jpbuno@ucdavis.edu



Jita Pandya Buño is the Associate Chief Operating Officer of UC Davis Health and a national leader in healthcare. In this role, she oversees the operations of a complex and dynamic academic medical center, ensuring the highest level of patient and family care. Buño began her career in the U.S. Air Force as a medical administrator and later served as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Navy. As a Fellow of American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE) and the American Leadership Forum, she is committed to promoting the highest standards of professional, educational and leadership performance. She was named a Rising Star in Healthcare by Becker's Hospital Review and recognized as Sacramento Business Journal's 40 Under 40. Active in the community and committed to the Sacramento region's growth, Buño serves on the boards of California Northstate University's Master of Healthcare Administration, Museum of Science and Curiosity (MOSAC), and the Sacramento Chamber of Commerce.

Buño received a Bachelor of Computer Science and a Master of Business Administration from California State University, Sacramento.

Jita and her husband, Ed, live in Elk Grove with their teenagers, Aeyla (18) and Edran (15), and dog, Jinky.

Jaime Von Sossan | President of 3fold Communications
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As President of 3fold Communications, a Sacramento-based marketing and advertising agency, Jamie acts as the lead ambassador for the company, responsible for executing the long-term vision and strategy for the impact 3fold can have on the world in the industries of education and workforce development, healthcare, nonprofits, and the public service sector. Her extensive background in client service ensures 3fold is walking with its clients, leading with curiosity, commitment, and drive, to exceed business goals. Her favorite part of her job: hiring brilliant people and helping them achieve their best selves.

Jamie has been with 3fold for the since 2012 and was named President in January 2020. Jamie and her husband Ryan migrated to Sacramento from Nebraska in 2003 and are raising their two boys, Cole (11) and Lou (9). She is a graduate of Leadership Sacramento Class of 2015, and Co-chair and Chair of LS Class of 2019 and 2020, respectively. She was named SBJ's Most Admired CEO in 2021 (Micro Business). She is heavily involved in the community as well, sitting as Board Chair for Teach For America California Capital Valley, Board Secretary of the Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and also serves as the City Liaison for Pocket Little League.

Cynthia Moreno | Press Secretary for Speaker Robert Rivas

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Cynthia Moreno is a trailblazer in communications, public affairs and media relations. She has dedicated a large part of her journey and career to empowering Latino excellence across California. Cynthia Moreno is a former award-winning journalist and communications professional. She was born in Hanford, raised in Huron and graduated from Coalinga High School from the top of her class. She graduated from UC Berkeley with dual degrees in legal studies and religious studies on a full academic scholarship. She is currently the Press Secretary for California State Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas; the first Latina to hold the post in the last 20 years and the third since the 1960's. She was previously a Communications Officer at Sierra Health Foundation and a Consultant with Visit Sacramento, helping them launch their Spanish-language website and develop multicultural strategies and content for diverse communities in Sacramento and across the globe. In 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom appointed her to the California Department of Motor Vehicles as the Assistant Deputy Director of Communications where she helped promote and amplify the REAL ID campaign, online services, and social media platforms. During the COVID pandemic, she worked with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) and the Listos Campaign to develop Spanish-language content for Californians.

Before her appointment, Cynthia worked in the State Assembly as a Senior Communications Consultant, and as a Communications Director in the State Senate. For 15 years, she was a member of the Capitol Press Corps and the Capitol Political Correspondent for Vida en el Valle, the largest bilingual newspaper in the United States. She wrote, produced, and hosted her own public affairs show on Azteca America in Fresno and was a news reporter for Telemundo 33 in Sacramento. Cynthia has been recognized as the [Sacramento Bee's TOP 20 Latino Change Makers](#), has been featured in [Capitol Weekly](#), [Comstock's Magazine](#), and was named a [40 Under 40 honoree by the Sacramento Business Journal](#). She is the recipient of the prestigious 2015 [La Raza Lawyers Association Community Service Award](#), and the "Spirit of Latina Award" through CAFÉ de California and the Latino Journal. She is a former New York Times Fellow, a Rotary Fellow, and the recipient of the National Association of Hispanic Publications and the McClatchy President's Awards.



**BY YOUNG PROFESSIONALS.
FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS.**

Metro EDGE inspires and emboldens its members to drive the culture, development and amenities that will brand Sacramento as THE place for young professionals to live, work, and play.



2025 Leadership Council

\$125

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

200+

CURRENT MEMBERS



As a member of Metro EDGE, this is what you can look forward to in 2025:

- **Six Signature Mixers & Networking Events:** Build lasting connections with fellow professionals.
- **Four Dynamic Professional Development Workshops & Forums:** Elevate your career with exclusive insights and training.
- **Exclusive Metro Chamber “After Hours” Mixers:** Enjoy premium access to the region's top business leaders.
- **Leadership Opportunities:** Apply to join the Leadership Council and help shape EDGE’s impact in the community.
- **Direct Access to Influential Leaders:** Engage with Metro Chamber and Foundation Board members.
- **Metro EDGE BoardLink Program:** Gain the opportunity to serve on a local board of directors and make a difference.

Join an elite network of future leaders: Be part of Sacramento's most ambitious and driven young professionals!

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

*Our mission is to **Engage** a diverse network, **Develop** critical business skills, **Give** back to the community and **Empower** leadership (EDGE).*