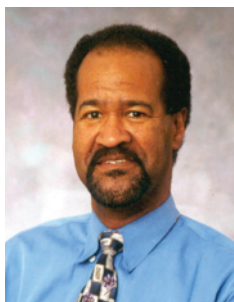




ERIC GUERRA

Legislative Director

Eric Guerra is the Legislative Director to Assemblyman Warren T. Furutani (D – South Los Angeles County) and serves as the consultant to the Select Committee on Career Technical Education and Workforce Development. He previously worked for Senator Gilbert Cedillo (D – Los Angeles) on issues of immigrant rights, education, workforce development, and transportation. He also served as the consultant to the Senate Select Committee on Immigration and the California Economy. While working for Senator Cedillo, Eric helped draft versions of the California Dream Act and SB 60 the law to provide driver’s license for undocumented immigrants. Eric Guerra was appointed by former Governor Gray Davis to the California State University Board of Trustees from 2003-2005. He received his B.S. in Electrical & Electronic Engineering and Masters Public Policy and Administration at California State University, Sacramento. While at Sacramento State he was elected student body president with the help of a diverse coalition of underrepresented students. Eric and his family immigrated to the United States from Mexico and settled in the small farm working town of Esparto in Yolo County. He is an alumni of CAMP, MESA, MEP, and EOP programs.



THOMAS BROWN

Managing Principal

Leveraging Knowledge, Change, and Diversity

Thomas Brown is a lifelong educator with an impressive record of success in creating academic and student affairs programs that promote increased satisfaction, achievement, and retention. Tom is known for his ability to communicate effectively with the diverse constituencies that comprise educational institutions, organizations, and communities – from board members to executive leadership, from faculty and administrators to frontline staff. A thoughtful, experienced, and engaging leader, Tom often uses humor to produce frank and meaningful dialogue around contentious and complex issues. His work is based on an integration of theories, research findings, and practical experience that makes a real difference for individuals and organizations.

Tom Brown served as an educator in academic and student affairs for 27 years, most recently as the Dean of Advising Services/Special Programs at Saint Mary's College of California. In addition to developing and administering Saint Mary's nationally recognized academic advising program, he was responsible for new student and family orientation programs, Academic Support and Achievement (e.g., tutoring, services for students with disabilities), pre-law advising, and the Offices of Asian Pacific American, Black, Latino, and International Student Programs. Tom initiated Saint Mary's International Students' Program and recruited for the College in Asia for five years. He also developed the High Potential Program, which provided access and support to first-generation students from economically and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds. Graduation rates for High Potential students exceeded those for all other cohorts at Saint Mary's.

Tom Brown has served as a consultant to more than 200 colleges and universities, and he is regularly invited to deliver keynote addresses at national conferences, campus colloquia, and workshops for faculty and staff. He is also widely known for his ability to engage, inspire and motivate students. He has published and presented extensively in areas related to student retention, academic advising, international education, and promoting the achievement and success of multicultural, international and at-risk students. Tom has held numerous leadership positions in the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA), served as Chair of the Pre-law Advisors National Council, and he has earned numerous awards and recognition for his leadership and program development in the US and abroad.

From 1998-2001, Tom was a member of the Leadership Team and Executive Director of a foundation for De La Salle Institute (DLSI) in Napa, California. DLSI is the San Francisco District (CA, OR, WA) headquarters of the De La Salle Christian Brothers. The Institute provides over \$6 million in annual support for elementary and secondary schools, a college, and numerous educational programs for students from poor and marginalized backgrounds in the western US, India, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan and The Philippines.



RAY MURILLO

**Associate Director of Student Programs, Academic Affairs,
California State University**

Conference Moderator

Ray Murillo is a 16 year student affairs professional, who currently serves as Associate Director of Student Programs, Academic Affairs at the California State University, Office of the Chancellor. He was previously Director of the Student Services Center in the College of Education and Integrative Studies at Cal Poly Pomona, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs in the College of Business and Economics at Cal State Fullerton and Director of the Multicultural Center at California State University, Dominguez Hills. One of his first professional positions was as an EOP Counselor at Cal State Fullerton. Ray served on the Higher Education Community Advisory Board for the 56th Assembly District, and was a founding board member of the California Council of Cultural Centers in Higher Education (CaCCCHE). Most recently, he was appointed by President Alexander to serve on the Latino Community Advisory Board at California State University, Long Beach. He is also a product of the CSU system with an undergraduate degree in Chicano/Latino Studies from CSU Long Beach.



DR. HORACE MITCHELL

President, California State University, Bakersfield

Dr. Horace Mitchell became the fourth President of California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB) in July 2004 after thirty-six years of experience in higher education. Under Dr. Mitchell's leadership, the University is entering a period of rapid development, with a vision to extend the excellence and diversity of the faculty and academic programs, enhance the quality of the student experience and strengthen community engagement.

Dr. Mitchell came to his current position from the University of California, Berkeley where he served as Vice Chancellor, Business and Administrative Services (1995-2004) and affiliated professor, African American Studies (1996-2004). Upon leaving UC Berkeley, he was awarded the Berkeley Citation, one of the campus' highest honors. Also, the title Vice Chancellor-Business Affairs, Emeritus was bestowed on him by the President of the University of California system.

Dr. Mitchell holds a bachelor's degree in psychology, a master of arts in education, and a Ph.D. in counseling psychology, all from Washington University in St. Louis. He began his professional career at his alma mater in 1968, serving as assistant dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (1968-1973), assistant professor of Education and Black Studies (1973-78), and Chair of the Black Studies Program (1976-78).

Dr. Mitchell then spent seventeen years (1978-1995) at the University of California, Irvine (UCI), serving in several faculty and management positions. He was Associate Dean for Student and Curricular Affairs in the UCI College of Medicine from 1980-1984. During his last eleven years at UCI (1984-1995), he was Vice Chancellor-Student Affairs and Campus Life, and Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior.

Dr. Mitchell, also a Professor of Psychology at CSUB, has teaching and research interests in the areas of identity construction, multicultural psychology, and psychological assessment. He continues to teach each year, and he maintains his California license for private practice as a psychologist.

Dr. Mitchell is a member of the board of directors of the American Council on Education and vice chair of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. He has been recognized widely for his many years of community service by civic, non-profit, governmental, educational and professional organizations. Currently he serves on the board of directors of the Kern Economic Development Corporation and the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium. In May of 2006, Dr. Mitchell was named the recipient of the 2005-2006 "Robert C. Maxson President of the Year Award" given by the California State Student Association which represents over 400,000 CSU students. He received the "Distinguished Alumnus Award" from his alma mater in May 2008.

Dr. Mitchell and "First Lady" Barbara Mitchell have been married for 42 years. Mrs. Mitchell's education and professional career have been in the areas of nursing, counseling, social work and educational administration. She is an adjunct faculty member in CSUB's Department of Advanced Educational Studies and Department of Social Work. The Mitchells have three adult children and five grandchildren.



DR. MILDRED GARCÍA

President, California State University, Dominguez Hills

Mildred García, Ed.D., is the seventh president of California State University, Dominguez Hills and the eleventh female president—the first Latina president—in the California State University system. CSU Dominguez Hills is a comprehensive urban university located in the South Bay area of Los Angeles County. Over 12,000 enrolled students choose from 45 baccalaureate degrees and 21 master's degrees offered by the University's six colleges. Assuming the presidency on August 1, 2007, Dr. García is a good fit for one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse universities in the western United States. Named to Hispanic Business magazine's 100 Most Influential Hispanics list for 2007, President García brought with her a commitment to multicultural alliances and belief that these coalitions strengthen students' self-development and opportunities, as well as strengthening institutions and communities.

García came to Dominguez Hills after serving from 2001 to 2007 as President of Berkeley College in New York and New Jersey, where she championed the cause of access with success—the obligation to make the attainment of a college degree a realistic goal for all who strive to succeed. Under her leadership, the college began offering full academic programs in an online format. Over 14 bachelor's and 14 associate's degrees were approved, including Criminal Justice, International Business, Fashion Marketing and Management, Health Information Management and Human Resources. The college also made a number of capital improvements during her tenure, including the construction of new facilities as well as the modernization and renovation of existing facilities.

Prior to Berkeley, she was at Arizona State University (1997-2001), Montclair State University (1986-1996), and Hostos Community College of City University of New York (1979-1986).

An educator foremost, García is a scholar in the field of higher education. Her research has concentrated on equity in higher education and its impact on policy and practice. She has written extensively and is a much sought-after speaker at national and international conferences. Among the books she has authored are *Succeeding in an Academic Career*, which focuses on how faculty of color can succeed in higher education; *Assessing Campus Diversity Initiatives* (co-published); and *Transforming the First Year of College for Students of Color* (with Laura I. Rendón and Dawn Person). Most recently, she was a keynote speaker at the Association of American Colleges and Universities' Annual Meeting, and presented at the American Council on Education's Third Summit for Women of Color Administrators in Higher Education. She was panel moderator for "Connecting Higher Education to Industry and Marketplace Needs" at the International Economic Development Council Annual Conference and delivered the keynote address at the University of San Diego, Community College Leadership Development Initiatives Summer Academy.

García is an active member of the American Council of Education, American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education, and the Association of American Colleges and Universities where she serves on their Board of Directors. She also serves on the Editorial Advisory Board of Peer Review, Association of American Colleges and Universities; on the Advisory Board for Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education; and as founding board member of the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships.

García received a Doctor of Education as well as a Master of Arts in higher education administration from Teachers College, Columbia University; an M.A. in business education/higher education from New York University; a B.S. in business education from Bernard Baruch College of City University of New York (CU NY); and an A.A.S. in legal secretarial sciences in business from New York City Community College of CUNY.



DR. SONJIA PARKER REDMOND

**Vice President of Student Affairs,
California State University, East Bay**

Dr. Sonjia Parker Redmond is Vice President of Student Affairs at California State University, East Bay. She began her higher education career at the University of Houston and has served the California State University, East Bay community in various capacities, including Executive Assistant to the President and Assistant to the President for Diversity and Equal Opportunity. She is a tenured Professor in the Department of Social Work.

Dr. Redmond is a magna cum laude graduate of Tuskegee University. She holds a Master of Social Work Degree from the University of Michigan and a doctorate in Public Health from the University of Texas. Dr. Redmond has conducted research and publishes in the areas of social problems, health care, homelessness, substance abusing mothers, and organizational change.

She is a fellow of the American Council on Education and a Fulbright Fellow, having taught and conducted research in the Middle East. She was President and co-founder of the Northern California Chapter of the Fulbright Association. She has received numerous academic and community service awards, including Professor of the Year, and the Solid Foundation's Community Service Award. She was recently inducted into the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame for her contributions in the field of higher education.

Dr. Redmond is often invited to be an inspirational speaker in corporate, nonprofit, and educational settings.

She is married to Gregory Redmond and has two sons and twin grandchildren, Jeremy and Sasha.



DR. HAROLD HELLENBRAND

**Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs,
California State University, Northridge**

Dr. Harold Hellenbrand has been appointed Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs effective August 1, 2004 by President Jolene Koester. Dr. Hellenbrand brings a wide range of administrative and academic experiences to California State University, Northridge, including 18 years of experience within the CSU System.

Provost Hellenbrand served as Dean, and Professor at the College of Liberal Arts at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo from 1998-2004; as Dean, and Professor at the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota, Duluth from 1994 - 1998; and as Chair, and Professor of the English Department at California State University, San Bernardino from 1982 - 1994.

His background reflects strengths in planning, K-12 linkages, retention efforts, and commitment to diversity. Dr. Hellenbrand is happy for his return to the Los Angeles area, and especially to the public urban university setting which he considers central to regional economic success and closer to major political and social currents. He is also attracted to Northridge's dedication to teacher renewal, something that is crucial to the Los Angeles area now and over the next 20 years.

As Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Hellenbrand is responsible for directing more than 2,500 faculty and staff members in the Division of Academic Affairs, the largest unit within the university with an annual budget exceeding \$160 million. Dr. Hellenbrand oversees eight academic colleges; the college of extended learning; the university library; academic support units; and six central academic affairs administrative offices.

Provost Hellenbrand serves as a member of the CSU Academic Council, the President's Cabinet at CSUN, and the CSUN Foundation's Board of Directors. He also chairs the Provost's Council, and the University Planning and Budget Group (UPBG).

After earning his bachelor's degree in English and American literature from Harvard College in 1975, Provost Hellenbrand received his doctorate in modern thought and literature from Stanford University in 1980.



SIMON SILVA

Artist

Keeping The Dream Alive

Simon Silva was born in Mexicali, Mexico in 1961 and immigrated to the U.S. when he was 1½ years old. He is one of 11 children that grew up as a migrant student, traveling across California, Oregon and as far north as Washington State to work every summer.

Simon used his art abilities to help him survive his turbulent past and to stay in school; he is still the only one of eleven kids to graduate high school and college.

At first, Silva had a generic artistic style. He painted horses and landscapes that he thought people might be interested in buying. But literature changed his life. "I had never been a reader," he says. "The only thing read in our house growing up was the Bible and the yellow pages. Then, my brother-in-law loaned me a copy of *Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya. There was so much material that was familiar in terms of characters, story lines, and some of the things I had gone through. It was a real revelation and it opened up a whole new world for me." Silva says the book set him on the right path to look at the experiences in his life and to find value in them. "Literature saved me," he says. "I had tried to run away from these experiences—I was carrying shame about them.

"Through Chicano literature, I was able to focus on Chicano culture in my artwork. It's what I needed to paint—not only for myself but for those out there who have no self-esteem. It's an opportunity for me to tell a campesino, 'You're important enough for me to paint about and you're also important enough to write about.'" Silva compares it to the feeling of being lost and then finding a familiar landmark. "It gives you a sense of peace," he said. Silva expanded this exploration of his farm working past in 1998 with the publication of his first book, *Small-Town Brownny*, a collection of autobiographical short stories of his childhood. "I started writing because I found myself talking about my background a lot in order to explain my art," he said. "The more I talked about my past, the more I realized how interesting the stories were."

For instance, there's the time Silva's family lived in a labor camp in Washington State in a shack built out of quarter-inch plywood walls, tin roofs, and makeshift beds. The mattresses were old, stained, smelly and infested with lice. Silva's father devised a clever—though unpleasant and stinging—home remedy to rid the children of lice: spraying their heads with Raid.

"Through my paintings and writings, I'm able to make a powerful situation out of what I had been ashamed of," he says. "The same can be said for ethnicity. It carries a lot of baggage, which can either tear you down or lift you up. For instance, a lot of people I went to school with were pigeonholed into thinking that they were throw aways. If you've been told all your life that you are inferior and can't do it, you won't. I was fortunate in that I had my artwork to keep me going. "That's what my dad and people like him fail to understand," Silva says. "It's not about money. It's about how you feel about yourself as a person—to feel good about what you do and the life you live."

Despite his deprivations as a child, Silva appreciates what his parents were able to give him. "Everything I do now is 100 times easier than when I worked out in the fields," he says. "My parents taught me how to work really hard, and I respect them for that. This is something a lot of people don't have." Silva also spends his time traveling around the country speaking about his experiences and the importance of art and literature.

"Art is still looked upon in our society as unimportant," he says. "In reality, it is very important. There are so many visual and textual references in our everyday world. It gives people a way to express themselves and to share that expression. It gives meaning to what we do here in this life. It allows us to form bonds—really deep bonds—with our fellow human beings. It pushes our society onward. It changes lives."



DR. WILLIAM FRANKLIN

**Director, EOP, Support Services & Upward Bound,
California State University, Dominguez Hills**

Dr. William Franklin holds a Ph.D. in Psychological Studies in Education with an emphasis in Child and Adolescent Development from Stanford University. Dr. Franklin currently serves as Director of the Educational Opportunity Program and TRIO Programs at CSU Dominguez Hills. He is the former Senior Director of College Access at the Fulfillment Fund. He was formerly an Associate Professor in Child and Family Studies at California State University, Los Angeles.

Dr. Franklin was the recipient of the NIMH Family Research Consortium III Post-Doctoral Fellowship. He also served as a Research Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania, where he worked directly with C.H.A.N.G.E.S. - Center for Health, Achievement, Neighborhood Growth and Ethnic Studies. Although unusually long, the name and its acronym represent the essential components in the life course of urban youth. Through a series of longitudinal studies, the Center sought to enhance the understanding of the predictors of resiliency, competence, and maximized educational outcomes for low-income urban youth.

He served as an Associate Professor of Human Development in the Center of Collaborative Education and Professional Studies at California State University, Monterey Bay. While there, he was the Interim Director of the Liberal Studies Institute. He has also served as a lecturer at Santa Clara University and has held a part-time instructor position at Stanford University.

Dr. Franklin's research focuses on risk and resilience in young African-American and Latino adolescents. He specifically examines individual variations in response to risk factors and the antecedents and correlates of healthy outcomes in individuals whose "lifespace" in low-income, urban environments pose heightened risks. For his work in this area, he was the recipient of the Spencer Dissertation Fellowship. Dr. Franklin continues to do research on risk and resilience factors in youth of color by examining family, school, and community factors. He is involved with a number of initiatives targeted at increasing college admissions among youth in underserved/low-performing high schools in Los Angeles. Dr. Franklin is also exploring how young African-American and Latino boys end up committing violent crimes by giving them a platform to find their voice – behind the wall.

Dr. Franklin received his B.A. in Psychology and his Masters in Educational Psychology from CSU Northridge. His teaching interests include adolescent development, child development, African-American family, early childhood themes and life cycle issues, adolescent risk and resilience, at-risk youth, juvenile justice, and positive youth development.

Dr. Franklin is often called on by community-based organizations, churches, schools, juvenile justice facilities and universities to give motivational talks and/or conduct workshops to encourage, inspire, confront, challenge and to move youth to a higher level. He is a proud EOP alum.



GLORIA ROMERO

California State Senator

California State Senator Gloria Romero was elected to the 24th Senate District in 2001, representing East Los Angeles and the greater San Gabriel Valley. Upon her election she was recognized as one of the hardest working members of the Legislature and quickly rose in leadership positions. She served as a member of the powerful Senate Rules Committee immediately upon her election and was subsequently elected as Democratic Caucus Chair. Soon after, she was elected as Majority Leader—the first and only woman to ever hold that leadership position in the history of the California State Senate.

Senator Romero currently serves as Chair of the Education Committee as well as Chair of the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee on Education, making her one of the most influential voices on education policy in California. Senator Romero believes that education is the civil rights issue of our time. States Romero, “My mother had a sixth grade education; I have a PhD. I understand the transformational power of education and the key it holds to accessing the American Dream.” She emphasizes that California cannot fully compete in the 21st century economy if we fail to close the achievement gap and create an educational system that fosters success for all students. Towards this end, she created and chaired the Senate Select Committee on Urban School Governance. She has authored numerous pieces of legislation seeking to restore accountability in our public school educational system and enhance the learning opportunities for California’s students. She also served as a member of the Senate Select Committee on High School Graduation and the Senate Select Committee on Asian Pacific Islander Affairs.

Senator Romero has also chaired the Senate Public Safety Committee and convened the Senate Select Committee on the California Correctional System. She soon became a leading voice for the reform and overhaul of California’s prison system. She conducted numerous oversight hearings on abuse and violence in California’s prisons and in 2005 authored landmark legislation reorganizing the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Prior to her election to the Senate, Romero served as a member of the Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees—the largest community college district in the nation. In 1995 she was the first Latina ever elected to this Board and served as its Vice President prior to her election to the California State Assembly in 1998. Upon her election she was appointed Majority Whip. An advocate of “sunshine” in government, Romero was also simultaneously elected in 1998 to the Los Angeles Charter Reform Commission to overhaul the city charter. She served as its first Interim Chair and resigned to serve in the Assembly.

Senator Romero is the product of California’s public education system. She earned her PhD in Psychology at the University of California and has taught at every level of higher education. She received the Outstanding Faculty Member award by the Associated Students at Cal State LA after only her second year on the faculty. She has focused her academic scholarship on impacts of unemployment on workers and their families, and became one of the earliest voices to speak out about the impact of AIDS on the Latino community. She participated with a team of UCLA scholars to research AIDS prevention among women of color. She is the author of numerous publications in scholarly journals. She continues to be a member of the faculty at California State University, Los Angeles.

Senator Romero has been awarded numerous honors in recognition of her legislation and advocacy on behalf of students, women, veterans, and all Californians. Hispanic Business Magazine recently named Senator Romero one of four “Outstanding Women to Watch in 2008.” She has been named a Legislative Hero by the California Women Lawyers; Senator of the Year by the Consumer Attorneys of California; Legislator of the Year by the Southern California ACLU, Teamsters Joint Council 43, the Consumer Federation of California, the California Ambulance Association, the California State Students Association, and the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence.

She has received the Impact Award from the Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association, the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies Community Award, the Distinguished Alumni of the California Community College League and the Mario Savio Advocate for Justice Award from the California Faculty Association for her commitment to workers’ rights.

Born and raised in Barstow, California, she earned her AA at Barstow Community College; her B.A. in Psychology at California State University, Long Beach; and her MA and PhD in Social and Personality Psychology from the University of California, Riverside. Her dissertation focused on the psychological and social impacts of unemployment on workers and their families. She continues to be a member of her faculty union, the California Faculty Association.



DR. JAMILAH MOORE

President, Los Angeles City College

Dr. Jamillah Moore brings 15 years of educational, policy, instruction and advocacy experience to her role as President of Los Angeles City College.

Dr. Moore began her career in advocacy as a California State Senate fellow in public policy for Senator Teresa P. Hughes. In 1996, she was appointed as senior consultant for the California State Senate Select Committee on College and University Admissions and Outreach. She then went to work for the Los Angeles County Office of Education as the Director of Governmental Relations. In 2004, Dr. Moore joined the System Office of the California Community Colleges as a Senior Vice-Chancellor for Governmental and External Relations. Shortly after taking the post she was officially appointed to the position by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

In 2005, she led the state recovery team for one year as the Interim President of Compton Community College, working to sustain educational opportunities for the students in that community. While there, she took the lead in advocating and obtaining successful passage of a \$30 million recovery loan under Assembly Bill 318 for Compton College. She also worked with Congress and college personnel to establish the first of its kind Major League Baseball Urban Youth Academy Program at Compton Community College. The program is designed to increase participation and interest in baseball, encourage academic participation and achievement, and promote greater inclusion of minorities into the mainstream of the game. The academy is open to elementary, middle and high school aged students in the Compton community.

Dr. Moore's accomplishments, skills, educational background, and training reflect a commitment to the philosophy and mission of California Community Colleges. Her career, at every level, has been a reflection of the college mission of an inclusive and effective learning and working environment for all. Dr. Moore's position as a former College President/District Superintendent and as a statewide Vice-Chancellor has prepared her to assume greater responsibility as a collaborative leader at the local, district and state levels. She began her teaching career at Sierra Community College and has never lost sight of her teaching roots. On occasion she has returned to the classroom as an adjunct professor in the Communication Studies and Multicultural Education Departments at California State University, Sacramento. Dr. Moore used her experience in higher education and public policy to write her first book, *Race and College Admissions: A Case for Affirmative Action*.

Dr. Moore's passion for community colleges is evident as her leadership extends to issues at both the state and federal levels. Always putting students and those in most need at the forefront she enjoys the challenges of developing and sustaining programs and policies that will continue the over 75-year tradition of education excellence in the Los Angeles Community College District.

Dr. Moore is a native of Los Angeles County and the daughter of an LACC alumna. She is a graduate of the University of San Francisco, where she earned a doctorate in International and Multicultural Education. She is also a former EOP student and graduate of California State University, Sacramento, where she earned a Masters in Intercultural Communication and Public Policy and a Bachelor of Arts in Communication.



WIL CASON

Best Selling Author and Celebrity Speaker

Wil Cason, Best Selling Author and Celebrity Speaker, is an internationally recognized Motivational Speaker, Author, and Professional Development Trainer; he's the CEO of Positive Steps Consulting, Creator of www.24HourMotivation.com, and featured in the blockbuster hit movie, "Pass It On." Hailing from Fairfield, California, Wil Cason has been laying the groundwork to become a success in the realm of professional and personal development since he attended San Jose State University in the early 1990's, where he earned his Masters Degree in Counseling Education. While a student of San Jose State University, Wil facilitated national youth leadership conferences such as the National Colleges and Universities Residential Life Conference, South Dakota and the National Peer Educational Conference. Wil also earned national recognition for founding San Jose State's first Men's Support Group, one of only three in the nation.