



PRESENTER BIOS

IMPACT SAN DIEGO: K-12 EDUCATION SEMINAR | NOVEMBER 19, 2009

Richard Barrera

Vice President, Board of Education Member
San Diego Unified School District
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Richard Barrera was elected to the Board in 2008. A first-generation San Diegan, his father emigrated from Colombia and his mother is the daughter of European immigrants who came to America through Ellis Island. After graduating from El Cajon Valley High School, Barrera received his Bachelors Degree in American History from UCSD, and a Masters Degree in Public Policy from Harvard University.

Barrera has a background as a community organizer, working to revitalize low-income neighborhoods and create networks for parents of pre-school aged kids. He served five years as president of the Consensus Organizing Institute and has also worked for the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, the Comer Science and Education Foundation and as a consultant for the City Heights Community Development Corporation. In the field of labor relations, he has served as San Diego regional organizer for both the United Domestic Workers and United Healthcare Workers.

Barrera serves as a board member of the San Diego Cooperative Charter School, the Greater Golden Hill Community Planning Committee, the San Diego League of Conservation Voters, and the San Diego Unity League. He volunteers for the Urban Corps of San Diego County and as a coach for his sons' North Park Little League teams. Barrera's two sons are students in the San Diego Unified School District.

Debbie Beldock

District & School Improvement Specialist
San Diego County Office of Education
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Debbie Beldock has been the Senior Director of District & School Improvement at the San Diego Office of Education since 2008. In this role, she provides support to districts in program improvement and oversees the unit that provides support in AVID, Instructional Leadership, and other improvement strategies for teaching and learning. She previously served as Executive Director for Instruction & Curriculum Pre-K through 12, and later as Executive Director of Federal & Special Projects for San Diego City Schools.

Beldock's has been teaching since 1974, during which time she has served as a classroom teacher, district teacher, Vice Principal, and Principal in a variety of school settings. She has written reports and given many presentations on school reform, including *Struggles and Challenges at the 'Top: Principles Must Learn Too*, published in 2003. Beldock is a member of the Association for Supervision & Curriculum Development, the National Staff Development Council, the Association of California School Administrators, and the International Reading Association, among others.



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Scott Himelstein

Former California Secretary of Education
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Scott Himelstein is the director of the Center for Education Policy and Law (CEPAL) at the University of San Diego. Founded in 2007, CEPAL is a joint undertaking of the School of Leadership and Education Sciences and the School of Law. Its mission is to foster better linkage between educational research, policymaking and practice. Himelstein is also an instructor at the USD School of Leadership and Education Sciences. He was appointed in 2008 by the Governor to the California Community College Board of Governors and was recently appointed as Vice President.

Himelstein is the former Deputy Secretary of Education and later Acting Secretary of Education for the State of California. In that capacity he served as chief policy advisor to the Governor on K-12 and higher education. Prior to his appointment by Governor Schwarzenegger, he served as Chairman and CEO of the National Even Start Association, President of the William D. Lynch Foundation for Children and Chairman and CEO of San Diego Reads.

Joyce Suber

Regional Director
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Joyce Suber's background resembles that of the many AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) students she has taught and mentored. She has the same vision for her children and her students that she once had for herself. Suber is the proud mother of two children, daughter Arika and son Christopher, both college graduates.

As an educator, Suber deeply believes that all children can and will succeed and she credits her growing up with two strong and determined parents who provided her with the encouragement and the essential tools needed to become successful. Suber grew up in Watts and Compton, CA with four sisters and two loving and hard working parents. Her father had a fifth grade education, but worked to be sure that his children and his wife had the opportunity to acquire a college education. Suber earned her undergraduate degree at CSU Dominguez Hills and a graduate degree in history from Washington State University. She taught for nearly 10 years as a community college instructor and in 1984 she began teaching in LA Unified School District at a local middle school. This was followed two years later with a move to San Diego where she began teaching AVID, a college preparatory program, at Mar Vista High School in the Sweetwater Union High School District. After nearly ten years Suber moved to the San Diego County Office of Education where she began as an AVID Project Specialist and is now the Regional Director of the AVID program. Her regional leadership includes all AVID programs in Imperial, Orange and San Diego Counties—some 302 middle and high schools. The AVID program is known for sending well over 90% of its students to colleges and universities. The program additionally provides generous scholarships (between 200,000 and 500,000 annually) to students throughout the county.

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Suber has been the recipient of several awards throughout her career which include: Woman of the Year, from the National Organization of Business and Professional Women, Teacher of the Year, Mar Vista High School; "Award of Excellence," UCSD Outstanding Educator Award, Educator of the Year nominee, California League of High Schools, and most recently, Woman of Distinction in 2004 from *Women's Inc.* and "Outstanding Educator" award from Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. Suber is currently on the Board of the San Diego Black Storytellers and the Scholarship Chairperson at her church, New Life Baptist. Suber is a founding member of a local parent-student assistance 501C3 program, Pathways 2 College and an active member and Vice President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Julie Meier Wright

President & CEO

San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation

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Julie Meier Wright has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation since 1997. EDC is the premier business development organization for the greater San Diego region. EDC markets the region for investment, with a focus on San Diego's growth industries – life sciences, telecommunications, software, electronics, and defense and space – and on the public policy issues that affect the region's competitiveness for their investment and growth, and also works directly with companies to locate or expand in the San Diego region.

Prior to coming to San Diego, Wright served as California's first Secretary of Trade and Commerce and as a member of Governor Pete Wilson's Cabinet from 1991 to 1997. She led the Administration's wide-ranging business climate reforms, built a new agency integrating economic development programs, and expanded the state's international role and presence, including opening five new overseas offices. In 2003, she served on gubernatorial candidate Arnold Schwarzenegger's Economic Recovery Council and subsequently on an Expert Review Panel for the Secretary of the Business, Transportation & Housing Agency.

Under Wright's leadership, EDC has led initiatives giving the region an in-depth understanding of its growth industries and the public policy and regional initiatives that will enhance their success, including the Partnership for the New Economy and the study of San Diego as a Region of Innovation by the Council on Competitiveness and Dr. Michael Porter of Harvard University. EDC also led a bold initiative to "brand" the region as "San Diego: Technology's Perfect Climate™," and led regional efforts to create the region's first comprehensive, on-line inventory of non-retail employment lands in partnership with the San Diego Association of Governments, to understand where technology workers live, and to market downtown San Diego, and also with SANDAG, the groundbreaking Indicators of Sustainable Competitiveness, benchmarking San Diego against 18 competitor regions. For the past two years, EDC led the region's successful efforts to protect its military bases in BRAC 2005 (Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission).

In 2003, the U.S. Department of Commerce awarded EDC its Excellence in Economic Development Award for "Enhancing Regional Competitiveness." In 2004, EDC received the Global Innovator Award from CoreNet Global, the world's premier association for corporate real estate and related professionals.



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Under Governor Wilson, she brought the “Red Team” approach to economic development as an effective tool to solve business problems, promote business expansion in California, and demonstrate a pro-business attitude from state government. Between 1991 and 1997, Red Teams were responsible for the creation or retention of nearly 100,000 jobs in California. In 1994, she also leveraged a \$200,000 state investment into a \$15 million advertising program to promote the state’s new business climate and its leadership in growth technology industries under the banner “California. The Climate’s Right.”

OVER ►

Wright was named the nation’s Outstanding Secretary of Commerce by the Biotechnology Industry Organization in 1995 and California Leader of the Year by Leadership California in 1996. In 1998, she was named to *San Diego Magazine’s* “50 People to Watch.” In 2001, she received Junior Achievement’s San Diego Hall of Fame Lifetime Laureate Award and the *San Diego Business Journal’s* “Women Who Mean Business” Award. In 2002, she received the “Women of Distinction” award from Soroptimist International. In 2004, she was named in “Women Who Move the City” by *San Diego Magazine*.

Prior to her time in public service, she spent 25 years in executive marketing and public affairs positions in the private sector, including 14 years with TRW Inc., now a part of Northrop-Grumman.

She serves on the boards of California Institute for Federal Policy Research and is an ex-officio member of the U.S. Council on Competitiveness, serving on its national steering committee for Dr. Michael Porter’s study of Regional Clusters of Innovation, where she led the working group for the study on San Diego in 2001. She also serves on the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board’s Task Force on Math-Science Education.

She continued to play a statewide role on the California State Assembly Speaker’s Commission on Regionalism. In 2004, she served on the California Business Transportation & Housing Agency’s expert review panel on government reform. She serves as a Senior Advisor to the California Budget Education and Action for Reform project and a member of the board of the California Council for Regional Leadership.

She serves on the boards of the San Diego Science & Technology Council, the San Diego Convention & Visitors Bureau, the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, BIOCOM, San Diego Dialogue, and UCSD Connect. She is an honorary board member of the San Diego Science Alliance, and on the Advisory Council to the Dean of Engineering and the Board of Directors of the College of Business Administration, both at San Diego State University. She serves on the Advisory Board for the Dean of Biological Sciences at the University of California San Diego.

Wright also serves on the board of the Corporate Directors Forum. She is an ex-officio member of the U.S. Council on Competitiveness, and served on its national steering committee for Dr. Michael Porter’s study of San Diego’s Clusters of Innovation, where she led the working group for the study unveiled in San Diego in 2001.

She serves on the Board of Directors of MAXIM Systems, Inc., a privately held, employee-owned defense company, and on the Advisory Board to Retirement Capital Group, an executive compensation and benefits company. She has been named Director of the Year for Not-for-Profit boards and Director of the Year for Companies in Transition by the Corporate Directors Forum.



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Previously, Wright chaired the California Tourism Commission, the California Economic Strategy Panel, the California Economic Development Financing Authority, and the Governor's Advisory Council on Biotechnology during her tenure in state government. She also held appointments at the Export-Import Bank of the United States, the California World Trade Commission, the California State University Institute, California Business-Higher Education Forum, the Bay Area Economic Forum, the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation, Project California, the Small Business Development Board, the California Coastal Commission, the California Film Commission, the California High-Speed Rail Authority and the President's Council at Santa Monica College.

Wright holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminology from the University of Maryland. She has completed the Stanford University Advanced Management College, the Stanford Financial Seminar, and a special program on competitiveness at Harvard University.

Camille Zombro

President

San Diego Education Association

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Camille Zombro has been a teacher for 14 years. After graduating from UCLA with a BA in English/American Studies, she started teaching as an intern in Dallas Public Schools (Dallas, Texas). Zombro taught at City Park Elementary School in south Dallas, a school that served most of the city's large homeless population. She returned home to San Diego in 1997 where she worked for San Diego Unified School District at Baker Elementary (8 years) and Tierrasanta Elementary (2 years) before being elected President of the San Diego Education Association in 2006.

The San Diego Education Association (SDEA) is the second largest affiliate of the California Teachers Association and an affiliate of the National Education Association. SDEA's members include over 8,000 certificated employees including teachers, nurses, counselors, librarians, substitutes, and many others. SDEA has a long, rich history of advocacy for educators and students and has been a leader in advancing the cause of quality public schools for every child.