



National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service

Public Meeting | The Next Generation of Service in America

Thursday, September 20, 2018

California State University | Golden Eagle Ballroom 1 & 2

5151 State University Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90032

#Inspire2Serve

2:30 – 3:30 **Service Fair**

3:30 - 3:40 pm **Opening Remarks**

Introduction: *Joe Heck, Chairman*

3:40 – 4:10 pm **“The Next Generation of Service in America”**

Moderator: Debra Wada, Commissioner

4:10 – 4:50 pm **Q&A and Public Comments**

The Commission’s work includes understanding why people serve, why people may choose not to serve, review of the military selective service process, and recommending ways to increase the number of Americans in military, national, and public service. The Commission is actively seeking input from the public and invites you to join the conversation. Share your thoughts at: www.inspire2serve.gov.



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Mario Fedelin, *Founder & Executive Director, Big Citizen HUB*

Mario spent over a decade in the national service movement with City Year. There, Mario developed and designed civic leadership programs for youth in three different cities and later supported high-needs schools improve urban high school graduation rates. Mario has been engaged in developing effective community programming while serving on multiple boards refining college access programs for girls in South Central and recreation programs in Pico-Union. Mario also serves on a steering committee for Promesa Boyle Heights, creating a coordinated cradle to college community effort and serves as a Co-Chair for the Invest in Youth Coalition, demanding increased and equitable investment in the city of Los Angeles. Mario is a graduate of SCLN's Leadership LA and a recipient of the Comcast NBCUniversal City Year Alumni Leadership award.

Matthew Keels, *Veterans Affairs Representative, California State University, Los Angeles*

Matthew Keels is an advocate for military-connected students attending Cal State LA. He is an Army Veteran who serves the community and hopes to one day become an active leader for veterans. He is seeking a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work with an interest in Policy and Economic Justice. As a veteran himself, he has spoken at several veteran events, and continues to fight for veterans issues across the community. Aside from ASI, Matthew is also the Vice President for SALUTE Veterans Honor Society and holds the Fundraiser position in the Lobby Days Caucus. Matthew's motto is "Learn to teach and teach to learn."



Leila Chavez Soliman, *Returned Peace Corps Volunteer*

Leila Chavez Soliman is an Returned Peace Corps Volunteer from Cambodia, where she served as an English Teacher/Teacher Trainer from 2015-2017. Joining the Peace Corps had always been her dream since college, especially after serving with AmeriCorps as a Literacy Tutor in LAUSD. As a first-generation Filipino-American immigrant, Leila is the first in her family to attend and finish college and graduate school in the United States. Now back in Los Angeles, she is currently serving her community as an elected Board Officer while taking care of her family and garden and pursuing her passions in the field of SEEDS: Service, Education, Empowerment, Development, and Sustainability. If Frederick Buechner was right, that "your vocation

in life is where your greatest joy meets the world's greatest need," then Leila's vocation would be to plant SEEDS wherever life takes her, especially where they are most needed.

Cristina Lemos, *Recruitment Coordinator, Los Angeles Conservation Corps*

Cristina Lemos is currently the Recruitment Coordinator, for Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC), servicing Los Angeles County. She began her human service journey at the Prince George's County Health Department in the Youth and Community Services Substance Abuse Program, eleven years ago. She started with community outreach, doing bilingual (English/Spanish) healthy relationships and prevention workshops in the various high schools throughout Prince George's County, MD. She then, worked as the Assistant to the Activities Director for senior citizens in Silver Spring, MD, implementing enrichment activities for the seniors to age safely and with purpose. She was later exposed to early childhood development, working alongside healthy families as a Family Support Worker, providing home visits, counseling, and case management to adolescent new and expectant mothers. Prior to her current role, she continued her journey with Montgomery County Department of Transportation, Aging Services Division, supporting at-risk and low income seniors with subsidized transportation assistance. Having worked with many populations, she is dedicated to linking those in need with opportunities and services.

