

SDSU RESEARCH FOUNDATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



ABBREVIATED BIOS
April 2021

**SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY
RESEARCH FOUNDATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



**ADELA DE LA TORRE
PRESIDENT**

Term: Ex Officio from June 2018 to present

Dr. de la Torre is the ninth permanent president of SDSU and the first woman to serve in that role. She brings over 30 years of service in leadership roles within institutions of higher education, including the California State University system, the University of Arizona and the University of California, Davis. Prior to her appointment as President, she served as the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Campus Diversity at UC-Davis. Dr. de la Torre's research focuses on Latino community health – an area in which SDSU is a national leader.

Dr. de la Torre served as Director for the UC-Davis Center for Transnational Health for fourteen years, as chair of the UC-Davis Chicana/Chicano Studies Department, as director of the Hispanic Center of Excellence in the College of Medicine at the University of Arizona, and as director of the Mexican American Studies and Research Center at the University of Arizona. Dr. de la Torre was a professor at California State University, Long Beach, and at the University of Arizona before joining UC-Davis in 2002, where she became the first Latina to receive the rank of Distinguished Professor.

Dr. de la Torre's grandparents immigrated to the Central Valley from Mexico. She grew up in the Bay Area, where her grandmother and mother taught her important cultural traditions – the importance of family, the value of hard work and the power of education. Her mother went to Modesto Community College and UC-Berkeley and was a public school teacher for 40 years. Dr. de la Torre earned her bachelor's degree in the political economy of natural resources from UC-Berkeley. Her master's degree and Ph.D. in agricultural and resource economics are also from UC-Berkeley.



HALA MADANAT
INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT

Term: Ex Officio effective September 1, 2020

Dr. Hala Madanat is the Interim Vice President for Research and Innovation at SDSU. In this role, Dr. Madanat is charged with stewarding the university's expansive research enterprise, supporting the development of SDSU's Mission Valley Innovation District, and overseeing SDSU's research advancement, research support services and technology transfer efforts, the SDSU Research Foundation, as well as the university's start-up incubator, the ZIP Launchpad.

From 2016 to 2020, Dr. Madanat served as the Director of SDSU's School of Public Health. During her tenure, research funding at the school increased 50 percent and its U.S. News ranking rose to No. 23 nationally.

Dr. Madanat is a distinguished professor of health promotion and behavioral science. Her research addresses health disparities through community engagement. Dr. Madanat has received more than \$22 million to support her work. She currently leads a \$3 million COVID-19 contact tracing program funded by the County of San Diego aimed at enhancing support in underserved communities and curbing the spread of the novel coronavirus.

She is a core investigator of SDSU's Institute for Behavioral and Community Health and serves as the lead principal investigator on the \$12 million SDSU/UCSD Cancer Center Partnership, funded by the National Cancer Institute. She has led the evaluation of several National Institutes of Health-funded grants and published nearly 90 peer-reviewed publications, book chapters, and books.

Dr. Madanat has a B.S. in biological sciences from the University of Jordan, a M.S. in community health sciences, and a Ph.D. in sociology with a minor in public health, both from Brigham Young University.



KAREN EMMOREY
SECRETARY

Term: September 2019 to September 2022
(fifth term)

Dr. Emmorey is a professor in SDSU's speech, language, and hearing sciences department in the College of Health and Human Services, and director of SDSU's Laboratory for Language & Cognitive Neuroscience (LLCN).

The LLCN is home to one of the most comprehensive sign language research programs in the nation. Dr. Emmorey has received support from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation for her research on what sign languages reveal about the nature of human language, cognition, and the brain. She is the author of four books and more than 100 journal articles and chapters and is an associate editor for the *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education*.

Dr. Emmorey is the recipient of \$19 million in grants. She currently holds awards from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Emmorey received SDSU's 2011 Distinguished Faculty Award and is a 2010 Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She received her B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. in linguistics from UCLA and was a senior staff scientist at The Salk Institute for Biological Sciences prior to joining SDSU in 2005.



AGNES WONG NICKERSON
TREASURER

Term: Ex Officio from May 2019 to present

Chair, Finance and Investment Committee

Agnes Wong Nickerson serves as Interim Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs & Chief Financial Officer. She is responsible for the management of one of four major divisions that make up the administrative organization of the University. Services provided by Business and Financial Affairs to the campus community include budget and financial resource management, Athletics budgetary oversight, construction of new facilities, human resource management, maintenance and improvement of current facilities, KPBS oversight, and providing for the public and environmental safety of faculty, staff and students.

Prior to April 2019, Agnes served as Associate Vice President for Financial Operations at San Diego State University, (2014-2019). She also served as Associate Vice President of Fiscal Affairs, and Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the University Corporation at San Francisco State University (SFSU), (2005-2014), and Chief Financial Officer at Duke University Press (2001-2005). Prior to 2001, Agnes worked in private industries including big four accounting firms, a Fortune 100 company and startup companies.

Ms. Wong Nickerson earned a B.A. in Accounting at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, an MBA in International Finance at University of San Francisco and an MLA in Liberal Studies at Duke University. She also serves on the Aztec Shops Board of Directors.



GUADALUPE “SUCHI” X. AYALA

Term: September 2021 to September 2024
(fourth term)

Dr. Ayala is a professor in SDSU’s School of Public Health, Director of the Institute for Behavioral and Community Health (IBACH), Director of the SDSU HealthLINK endowment, and Co-Director (with Dr. Kristen Wells) of the SDSU HealthLINK Center for Transdisciplinary Health Disparities Research. IBACH is a non-profit research institute comprised of 15 tenured/tenure-track SDSU faculty dedicated to addressing health disparities among Latinos/Hispanics, sexual and gender minorities, and other marginalized and underserved populations. SDSU HealthLINK is a \$10 million endowment from the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) that is building a research infrastructure that supports the use of new technologies and big data in health disparities research.

Dr. Ayala completed her Ph.D. in clinical psychology with a specialization in behavioral medicine in 2002, received an MPH in health promotion in 2002 and an MA in experimental psychology in 1997. She joined SDSU as an Assistant Professor in 2005 and was promoted to Professor in 2011. Dr. Ayala served as the Associate Dean for Research in the College of Health and Human Services from 2014 to 2017 and the Associate Director for Research in the School of Public Health from 2017-2018. Professor Ayala has led several intervention and observational studies funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Healthy Eating Research program, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention among others. Her total funding to date as an SDSU principal investigator is \$41.6 million. Dr. Ayala’s work examines a range of factors related to health and well-being in children, adults, and families, including improving access to and consumption of healthy foods by working with small food stores and restaurants, promoting physical activity through community health worker support, and preventing and controlling obesity, diabetes, and asthma through system change. Her research has produced over 180 peer-reviewed manuscripts, including several systematic reviews and evidence-based interventions.

In 2015, Dr. Ayala was presented with the Outstanding Faculty Award for the College of Health and Human Services in recognition of her achievements in designing evidence-based interventions to prevent and control a variety of chronic health conditions, including obesity, diabetes, and asthma among Latinos. In 2018, she was awarded the Zahn Professorship of Innovation and Creativity which will help foster translation of the research initiatives in use of technology and big data for promoting health to the classroom in the form of innovations in Interprofessional Education.



WILLIAM “BILL” BRACK
Community Member

Term: September 2019 to September 2022
(third term)

Member, Finance and Investment Committee

William "Bill" Brack received his Bachelor of Science degree in finance in 1976 from San Diego State University. Mr. Brack was in management in the financial services industry for over 30 years. During that time, he managed branch offices for Charles Schwab and Company in San Diego, Fort Worth, Houston and La Jolla and a global call center team in Phoenix. In the community, Bill has served on the board of directors for the Alzheimer's Association of San Diego and is currently serving on the Advisory Board with the Aztec Club. Bill is a registered Certified Financial Planner who works as a consultant within the financial services industry.



VICKIE CAPPS
Community Member

Term: September 2020 to September 2023
(third term)

*Member, Audit Committee and
Finance and Investment Committee*

After Ms. Capps received her Bachelor of Science degree in business administration/ accounting from San Diego State University, she began her career with Ernst & Young LLP and served ten years as a senior audit and accounting professional. Her subsequent work experience included CFO positions at several large multinational corporations, all San Diego-based. She is well versed in executive leadership and mentoring, global strategic business development, corporate finance and accounting, capital markets and investor relations, operations, business integration/ restructuring and corporate governance. Most recently, her unique and broad-based talents were an integral part of DJO Global, Inc.'s growth story from 2002 through 2013. When Ms. Capps joined DJO, a global orthopedic device company, as Chief Financial Officer in 2002, company revenue was approximately \$180 million. For 2013,

DJO's revenues exceeded \$1.1 billion, reflecting a compound annual growth rate of over 20%. Ms. Capps retired from DJO in December 2013.

Ms. Capps is currently a member of the Senior Advisory Board of Consonance Capital Partners, a healthcare-focused private equity firm and she serves on the board of its portfolio company, Enclara Health, a provider of pharmacy services to the hospice industry. She is also a member of the boards of directors and chairs the Audit Committees of RF Surgical Systems, Inc., a private medical device company, Otonomy, Inc., a public biopharmaceutical company (Nasdaq:OTIC) and Connecture Inc., a private healthcare information technology company. She served as a member of the board of directors of SenoRx (Nasdaq), prior to its acquisition by C. R. Bard, Inc. in July 2010. Ms. Capps also serves on the Finance Committee of the board of directors of The Santaluz Club, a non-profit country club. Ms. Capps is a California Certified Public Accountant and was recognized as a CFO of the Year honoree by the San Diego Business Journal in 2009 and 2010.



JOAN M. COPPENRATH
Community Member

Term: September 2021 – 2024
(second term)

Member, Audit Committee

Finance and operations executive Joan Coppenrath has more than thirty years of experience in public accounting and private industry including financial services, mortgage banking and real estate. Her expertise includes strategic asset disposition, financial planning and reporting, financial accounting, operational management and loan system conversions.

Ms. Coppenrath has been with HSBC Auto Finance since 2001, where she has served as Controller, Chief Financial Officer and currently as Strategic Initiative Finance Executive. Prior to joining HSBC, Ms. Coppenrath held positions with GMAC Mortgage (Senior VP, Mortgage Loan Servicing), Wells Fargo Bank (VP, Mortgage Loan Servicing) and KPMG (Senior Audit Manager).

An SDSU alumna with a B.S. in accounting, Ms. Coppenrath also serves her community. She is a board member of Just in Time for Foster Youth and has volunteered with the San Diego Zoological Society, Junior Achievement and National Charity League.



ASHLEY TEJADA
President, Associated Students

Term: Ex Officio 2021-22

Ashley is a senior majoring in English with a minor in Leadership.



NATALIE MLADENOV

Term: September 2019 to 2022
(first term)

Dr. Natalie Mladenov is currently serving in the department of Civil Construction and Environmental Engineering as an Associate Professor of Environmental Engineering and William E. Leonhard Jr. Chair at San Diego State University. Her research interests include water reuse to promote water-energy-food sustainability, surface water and groundwater quality, NOM-microbe-trace element interactions, and fluorescence-based sensors. Dr. Mladenov leads the Water Innovation & Reuse Lab, which trains and mentors undergraduate and graduate students from diverse groups to take on environmental challenges by conducting research on sustainable water and sanitation technologies and biogeochemical processes in natural and engineered systems. Dr. Mladenov is the recipient of roughly \$3 million in grants; current sponsors include the Water Research Foundation and the San Diego River Conservancy.

Dr. Mladenov received her B.A. in art from the University of South Florida, a B.S. in civil engineering from the University of South Florida, and an M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Colorado.



SALVADOR HECTOR OCHOA
Provost and Senior Vice President

Term: Ex Officio from September 2019 –
present

Provost Ochoa joined SDSU in July of 2019. Prior to serving as Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at SDSU, Dr. Salvador Hector Ochoa was professor and dean of the College of Education at The University of New Mexico from 2014 to 2019. He also served as the Dean of the College of Education at The University of Texas Pan American from 2007 to 2014, and associate professor of educational psychology at Texas A&M University (TAMU). Provost Ochoa earned a Ph.D. in school psychology from Texas A&M University in 1989. His research focuses on bilingual psychoeducational assessment and educational programming issues pertaining to Latinx students. He has shared his expertise on these issues at both the state and national levels. Dr. Ochoa has served on several Texas Education Agency committees and on a U. S. Department of Education Expert Advisory Panel for the Study of English Language Learners with Special Needs.

Over the span of his career, Dr. Ochoa has procured \$3.7 million dollars in grants, authored more than 30 publications, including two books, and has made more than 60 nationally refereed presentations. Dr. Ochoa's research has been published in the following journals: Journal of School Psychology, The Journal of Special Education, Learning Disabilities Research & Practice, The Journal of Psychoeducational Assessment, Journal of Educational and Psychological Consultation, Learning Disability Quarterly, Bilingual Research Journal, The Journal of Educational Issues of Language Minority Students and Multiple Voices for Ethnically Diverse Exceptional Learners. Moreover, he has published two books. The Guilford Press named his co-authored book, *Assessing Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students: A Practical Guide*, a best seller. Dr. Ochoa served as an Associate Editor of the American Educational Research Journal: Teaching, Learning and Human Development from 2004 to 2006. He has been a member on editorial boards for the following journals: The Journal of Psychoeducational Assessment, School Psychology Review and Multiple Voices for Ethnically Diverse Exceptional Learners.

Dr. Ochoa has received several professional honors from Texas A&M University, including multiple awards for teaching excellence. In 2013, he received the Texas A&M University College of Education and Human Development's Outstanding Alumni Award.



DAVID PAGE
Community Member

Term: September 2019 – 2022 (first term)

Chair, Audit Committee

David Page is the Corporate Director of Finance for San Diego Zoo Global. With significant experience in change management, process improvement, strategic planning, and team building, he has led the implementations of multiple financial systems, including a new general ledger system (Financial Edge), a new budgeting/forecasting/reporting system (PowerPlan), a travel request, expense reimbursement and pcard reconciliation system (Concur), and an e-procurement and payables system (Coupa). Prior to joining the Zoo, David served as Corporate Controller for two public companies, one in the information technology consulting industry and one in the golf manufacturing industry, and a privately held company in the biotech industry. He began his career as a CPA at Ernst & Young.

David holds a B.S. in accounting from San Diego State University and a Master's in business administration from California State University San Marcos.



RANDOLPH "RANDY" PHILIPP

Term: September 2020 to September 2024
(second term)

Member, Finance and Investment Committee

Dr. Philipp is a professor of mathematics education in the School of Teacher Education at San Diego State University and director of the Center for Research in Mathematics and Science Education (CRMSE). Dr. Philipp earned his BA and MS in mathematics at CSU Northridge. While serving as a Peace Corps volunteer teaching mathematics at a junior high school and a teacher training institute in Liberia, West Africa, he discovered that he enjoyed working with prospective teachers. Upon returning to the United States, Dr. Philipp continued his education and received his Ph.D. in curriculum instruction from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Philipp began his career at SDSU in 1990. His research interests include studying teachers' beliefs and mathematical content knowledge, the effects on prospective and practicing teachers of integrating mathematics content and students' mathematical thinking,

mapping a trajectory for the evolution of elementary school teachers engaged in sustained professional development, and studying students' integer sense. In 2006, Dr. Philipp was the first recipient of the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educator's (ATME) Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teacher Education. He is now serving as president of ATME.

Dr. Philipp is the recipient of roughly \$16 million in grants, and current funding from the National Science Foundation.



JENNIFER THOMAS

Term: September 2020 to September 2024
(second term)

Dr. Thomas is a professor and the master's program advisor in the department of psychology. She joined SDSU as an Assistant Professor in 2000.

Her research focuses on reducing the severity of fetal alcohol effects, particularly using choline supplementation as a potential treatment. Dr. Thomas's lab integrates students into all levels of research, enabling them to gain experience with behavioral testing and histological evaluation.

Dr. Thomas is the recipient of over \$9 million in grants—primarily from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism—. This includes a prestigious NIH MERIT Award. She has also been instrumental in the administration and/or preparation of conference, consortium and training grants.

Dr. Thomas received her B.S. from Iowa State University and her M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Iowa.



Ming-Hsiang Tsou “Ming”

Term: September 2018 to September 2022
(second term)

Audit Committee Member

Professor Tsou joined SDSU’s geography department in 2000. His research interests are in human dynamics, social media, big data, visualization, internet mapping, web *geographic information systems (GIS)*, mobile GIS, cartography, and K-12 GIS education. His research has been applied to wildfire tracking, habitat conservation, health care and homeland security. He is co-author of *Internet GIS*, and serves on the editorial boards of *the Annals of GIS*, *Cartography and GIScience* and *Professional Geographers*.

Dr. Tsou is the recipient of roughly \$4 million in grants; he currently holds three awards from the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Tsou is the director of the Center for Human Dynamics in the Mobile Age, a transdisciplinary research area of excellence at San Diego State University that integrates research from GIS, public health, social science, sociology, and communication. Dr. Tsou has served as chair of the Cartographic Specialty Group, chair of Cyberinfrastructure Specialty Group in the Association of American Geographers (AAG), and co-chair of the NASA Earth Science Enterprise Data System Working Group (ESEDWG) Standard Process Group (SPG). He has also served on two U.S. National Academy of Science Committees. From 2004-2007, Dr. Tsou was co-chair of the NASA Earth Science Enterprise Data System: Standard Process One. Since 2008, he has served as a senior researcher in the GeoTech Center for promoting GIS education in community colleges and high schools.

Dr. Tsou obtained his B.S. from National Taiwan University, his M.A. from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and his Ph.D. from the University of Colorado at Boulder, all in geography.



ROBERT “BOB” ZELLER

Term: September 2021 to September 2025
(third term)

Member, Finance and Investment Committee

Dr. Zeller obtained his B.A. from Boston University and his Ph.D. from the California Institute of Technology. He was hired as an assistant professor in SDSU's biology department in 2001, promoted to associate professor with tenure in 2007 and to full professor in 2013. He is currently serving as chair of the biology department. Since arriving at SDSU he has taught nearly 4,000 students and has trained approximately 36 undergraduates as well as numerous masters and doctoral students in his laboratory. For over 15 years Dr. Zeller has served as a faculty member at the internally renowned Embryology Course of the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Research in his laboratory centers on understanding how the nervous system develops in the marine animal ascidian. Dr. Zeller's research focuses on both the basic cellular mechanisms that govern development, as well as more applied experiments related to hearing loss and Alzheimer's disease. This research has been continuously funded by the National Science Foundation since 2004, starting with an NSF CAREER grant. In addition to his NSF support, Dr. Zeller's work is also currently funded by the Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation. Dr. Zeller is the recipient of roughly \$3 million in grants.

He is a member of the editorial board for Integrative and Comparative Biology and is currently the Program Area Coordinator for the Cell and Molecular Biology faculty of the Biology Department. Dr. Zeller worked with the College of Sciences, the university and research foundation to design and build the Coastal Waters Laboratory.