



metro edge

**Linda Beech Cutler**  
**CEO, Sacramento Region Community Foundation**

Linda Beech Cutler was named CEO of the Sacramento Region Community Foundation in March 2013. Prior to joining the Foundation, Linda was Deputy Director of Commercial Strategy for the Sacramento County Airport System. She is the former President and CEO of the Mercy Foundation and served as Vice President, Corporate Communications and Corporate Responsibility for GenCorp, the former parent company of Aerojet/Rocketdyne. In 2009, she was the Chair of the Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce. Under her leadership the Chamber's Metro EDGE program was launched. Linda currently serves as Chair of the League of California Community Foundations, is on the executive committee of Valley Vision and is a Senior Fellow of the American Leadership Forum.

**Maritza Davis**  
**Vice President, Experiences and Social Responsibility, Sacramento Kings**

Fueled by the passion of creating unforgettable experiences Maritza Davis has built a successful career by developing and executing hundreds of events and experiences that excite, entertain and transform community.

Davis is the Vice President of Experiences and Social Responsibility for the Sacramento Kings and oversees the Kings Foundation.

Prior to being recruited by the Kings in 2018, Davis Co-Founded Unseen Heroes, an award-winning Event Marketing and Production Agency. Under her direction, Unseen Heroes has developed unique event experiences, retail concepts and has built strong corporate, political and non-profit clientele. She is the host of the worldwide event Le Diner En Blanc-Sacramento.

After earning her B.A. of Communication with a Public Relations emphasis at CSU, Sacramento she started her career with Nordstrom and later joined the Hillstone Restaurant Group in Management. She is native of Sacramento and lives with her husband and three sons.

**Hon. Preet Didball**  
**Mayor, City of Yuba City**

Preet made international history being elected Mayor of Yuba City on December 5, 2017, and making her the first Sikh American woman to hold the highest elected office in an American city. In 2014, Preet made history becoming the first Sikh woman elected to City Council in Yuba City. Her swear-in was made even more special and historical for Yuba City as she stood next to her mother and was sworn in by her daughter in a ceremony. Preet is a child of farm laborers and worked the fields herself. During the summer months, she worked alongside her parents in the peach and prune fields and the graveyard shifts in the local cannery. Preet was the first in the family to attend college. Unfortunately, during her schooling she dealt with some difficult times, including an assault. But she went on and attended UC Davis followed by Sacramento State, and University of San Francisco, earning her Bachelors Degree in Physical Education with concentration in Physical Therapy and her Masters Degree in Public Administration with concentration in Health Services. She served as a Planning Commissioner for Sutter County and Yuba City for 10 years prior to being elected. And she's been working serving the state in civil service assignments for the past 20 years. As a single parent, Preet raised her daughter, Arianna, in Yuba City. Arianna is now in her second year of college on an academic scholarship and playing volleyball for the university. Preet also cares of her elderly mother, Gurbaksh.



### **JoDee Harrison**

#### **Business Banking Manager and VP, Commercial Banking, Wells Fargo**

JoDee Harrison is a Business Banking Manager for the Northern and Central California Commercial Banking Group, leading a team of Relationship Managers covering the Greater Sacramento and North State Area. Her division offers a wide range of commercial services to business customers with annual revenues between \$5 million and \$50 million, including lines of credit, business loans, agriculture loans, commercial construction loans, commercial real estate, business credit cards, business deposit accounts, treasury management services and more.

A 24-year veteran of Wells Fargo, Harrison started her Wells Fargo career in 1995 as a Retail Store Teller. Her success over the years promoted her through various positions as a Customer Service Representative, Personal Banker, and Store Manager. In 2005, she followed her passion of partnering with business clients and joined the Business Banking team. Harrison has excelled during her last fourteen years and has held various roles from a Business Relationship Manager to her current role of Business Banking Manager in the Commercial Banking group.

Harrison is a native of Northern California and graduated from California State University Sacramento with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. She serves as a committee member for Lilliput Families. Harrison has participated in several key initiatives for Northern California Business Banking, including the Women's Enrichment program. She is currently attending the Graduate Banking Program through Pacific Coast Banking School.

Harrison currently resides in Elk Grove with her husband Jason and only daughter Marley. In her spare time, she enjoys following Marley around the country watching her play club volleyball.

### **Katie McConnell Olson**

#### **Founder and President, Hire Education Consulting Group**

Katie is a licensed CPA and PHR (Certified Public Accountant, Professional of Human Resources). Katie started her career in corporate tax audit with the Franchise Tax Board. She then entered into public accounting with a regional CPA firm, where she performed audits of publicly traded manufacturing entities and construction companies. Katie exited that firm in 2011 to help launch and run a start-up CPA firm. Thereafter, she entered the talent industry with a worldwide recruitment organization. She re-entered public accounting as Director of Recruitment for a large regional CPA firm where she lead the firm's in-house talent program. Katie formed a hiring consulting practice within that firm and ultimately exited to launch Hire Education Consulting Group.

Katie has experience serving clients of all sizes and industries. Her focus is in the middle market for growing companies with a focus in construction, manufacturing, professional service and agriculture.

### **Jake Mossawir**

#### **President and CEO, St. HOPE**

Jake currently serves as President/CEO of St. HOPE after having served as the founding Executive Director of City Year Sacramento. Previously, he spent numerous years as the Sacramento Communications Director at Moroch PR, managed multiple public affairs campaigns at Randle Communications, and was an appointee of the Governor of California. Jake has dedicated countless hours to the Sacramento community, serving on multiple boards, including the Sacramento Asian Chamber of Commerce, Ronald McDonald House Charities, College Track, American Leadership Forum, St. HOPE Public Schools and the Historic California Governor's Mansion Foundation. He attended UC Davis for his undergraduate degrees in both Political Science and African American Studies, is a graduate of Leadership Sacramento, the Nehemiah Emerging Leaders Program, and is an American Leadership Forum Senior Fellow. Mossawir also holds an MBA in finance from Drexel University.



**Meghan Phillips**  
**Founder and CEO, Honey Agency**

Meghan Phillips is the Founder and CEO of Honey. With nearly two decades of experience in marketing strategy and driving creative campaigns, Meghan established this Sacramento-based company in 2008 with the mission to combine marketing and creative under one roof for the food, beverage and agriculture industries.

**Shayna Schulz**  
**Vice President, Enterprise Process Transformation, Blue Shield**

Shayna Schulz joined Blue Shield of California in 2015. She recently took on a new role to lead Enterprise Process Transformation and drive innovation throughout the company. Previously, she was responsible for operational strategy and member experience: enrollment, benefits, claims, provider operations, appeals and grievances and customer contact centers. Her teams' shared objective is to deliver on the company's promise of a high-quality, consistently exceptional member experience. She also oversees the teams focused on ensuring our employees are resourced and equipped with the appropriate training, tools and coaching support.

Schulz brings nearly two decades of insurance experience and responsibilities ranging from customer service and corporate communications to business development and sales. Before joining Blue Shield of California, Schulz served as vice president of Customer Service at Allstate, where she led the company's 2,000- person customer contact center organization supporting the needs of Allstate customers across the company's property, casualty, life and retirement lines of business.

With a passion for caring for Blue Shield of California members and employees, Schulz has implemented programs that are transforming the member experience into one that is proactive, personalized and meaningful, while empowering employees to do their best work. The result is a customer base that feels cared for, and an employee base that feels pride in its work and a deeper connection to the company's mission.

Schulz holds a Bachelor of Arts Cum Laude in English Literature and a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Boston University, and a Master of Business Administration from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. As executive sponsor of Blue Shield's Women Lead to Excellence employee resource group, Schulz is committed to developing leaders and enabling women and men to reach their full potential and excel in their careers.



**Brad Simmons**  
**Interim Chief Operating Officer, UC Davis Medical Center**

Brad Simmons is the interim chief executive officer of the University of California, Davis, Medical Center in Sacramento.

Simmons joined UC Davis in 2016 as chief operating officer of the medical center. He served as the secondary leader of the hospital for Ann Madden Rice, who is moving on after 12 years to become president of Abbott Northwestern Hospital and senior vice president of Allina Health in Minneapolis. Prior to joining UC Davis Medical Center, Simmons served as chief operating officer of Saint Luke's Hospital in Kansas City, a nationally recognized Malcolm Baldrige Quality Award recipient. He previously served as senior vice president of Medicine, Surgical & Emergency Trauma Services at Parkland Health and Hospital System in Dallas. He also has earned board certification in health care management as a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE), which signifies expertise, experience and commitment to continuing education and professional development.

His responsibilities at UC Davis Medical Center have involved operational, logistical and patient support services, which also include UC Davis Children's Hospital. He has overseen UC Davis' level 1 trauma and emergency services, surgery and post-operative care services, as well as facility operations and supply chain management.

In addition, Simmons has been a key leader in managed care and outpatient services for the health system, which include its network of primary care offices throughout the Sacramento region, as well as leading the medical center's engagement with Sacramento County for emergency medical services.

Simmons' varied responsibilities also extend to UC Davis' 140-acre Sacramento campus, home to more than 3 million square feet of buildings, a number of mandated seismic safety upgrades, and multiple major expansion projects, including the recently announced UC Davis Rehabilitation Hospital.

Simmons is active in the community and involved in various Sacramento community organizations. He currently sits on the PBS/KVIE Board of Directors and is a member of the American Leadership Forum – Sacramento.

Simmons and his wife, Angie, have a 14-year-old terrier and enjoy traveling and trying new restaurants around town.



**Louis Stewart**  
**Chief Innovation Officer, City of Sacramento**

Louis Stewart currently serves as the City of Sacramento's first Chief Innovation Officer within the Mayor's Office for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. His role within the City is to promote and drive long term economic growth and job creation through innovation. Mr. Stewart is focused on bridging the public-private divide, reducing process, and growing a strong and vibrant business community. He also encourages an innovation-driven economy by supporting entrepreneurs, revenue-generating businesses and the creation of high-quality jobs.

Prior to his role with the City of Sacramento, he spent 7 years serving as California's Deputy Director of Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development. In that capacity he oversaw the coordination and promotion of innovative programs, activities, and emerging technologies throughout the State. He managed a robust statewide innovation-based economic development support network of regional innovation clusters called the California Innovation Hubs (iHubs). Mr. Stewart has served in various public sector roles for the past 11 years. His professional experience also includes 17 years in the private sector in sales, marketing, business diversity and information technology.

While Mr. Stewart's experience is vast, his greatest expertise and focus includes:

- Development of Innovation Ecosystems
- Smart and Connected Cities (emphasis on mobility ... A/V)
- Life Science & Bio-Technology
- Tech Equity and Access

Mr. Stewart is a service-based leader who embodies the belief that he cannot be a success without helping others be successful.

Mr. Stewart grew up in France and Italy and played professional basketball in Peru and Belgium. Mr. Stewart is a Nehemiah Sr. Fellow for Innovation & Entrepreneurship and received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Santa Clara University.

**Alex Taghavian**  
**Partner, Capitol Impact, LLC**

Alex Taghavian, who joined Capitol Impact in 2013, has 15 years of education leadership and teaching experience, and has extensive expertise in economic and workforce development strategies. Prior to joining Capitol Impact, Taghavian served in academic management roles for public and private universities, including as an adjunct professor at Sacramento State teaching scholarly writing and research methodologies.

Taghavian serves on the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation T3 Innovation Network and on the board of directors of the Los Rios Colleges Foundation. Taghavian is also Chair of the Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

At Capitol Impact, Taghavian leads strategy for the firm's business clients and their social impact initiatives. His portfolio covers the design and implementation of technology solutions, workforce development programs, and postsecondary partnerships.

Taghavian holds a bachelor degree from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, a master degree from Sacramento State, and a doctor of education from Drexel University. He received the Leadership and Service Award from the School of Education at Drexel University and was selected as a winner in the Sacramento Business Journal 40 Under 40 award.



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**H. Rao Unnava**

**Dean and Professor of Management, UC Davis Graduate School of Management**

An award-winning teacher and internationally recognized marketing expert, Dean Unnava's research focuses on issues related to brand loyalty, consumer response to advertising and sales promotions and consumer memory. Since joining the nationally ranked school in 2016, Unnava has launched several new programs to enhance the MBA experience and expand business education offerings to more students. He joined UC Davis following 32 years at The Ohio State University's Fisher College of Business, where he earned his Ph.D. and served in several leadership roles. Unnava is also one of the founders of [Angie's List](#). He serves on the boards of the [American Marketing Association](#), [Magilla Loans](#), and the [Bay Area Council](#), the largest business-centric public policy organization in the San Francisco region.