

# 2022 Summit on Disability and Inclusion

## Building Spaces for Belonging

Friday, August 12, 2022 | 9:00am - 12:00pm

# Schedule

### Welcome

Dr. Reginald Chhen Stewart

### About Thompson Policy Institute on Disability

Drs. Meghan Cosier and  
Audri Sandoval Gomez

### Keynote Presentation

*The Walk with Joaquin: Journey to Inclusion*  
Diana Pastora Carson, M.Ed.

### Research Presentation

*Map Your Future: Aligning Skills to  
Labor Market Needs*  
Dr. Amy-Jane Griffiths and  
Rachel Wiegand, Ed.S.

### Intermission

### TPI Initiatives

*Building Belonging in Educational  
and Community Spaces*

Drs. Meghan Cosier, Audri Sandoval Gomez,  
Charlotte Achieng Evensen, Kevin Nguyen-  
Stockbridge, and Jill Perez, M.A.

### Transition Services Panel

*Orange County Community Partners Support  
Alex in His Journey to Full-Time Employment*  
Alex Zavala and Orange County  
Service Providers

### Excellence in Disability Advocacy Award

Presented to the Honorable Dave Cortese,  
California State Senate

### Closing

Drs. Meghan Cosier and  
Audri Sandoval Gomez

# 2022 SUMMIT ON DISABILITY AND INCLUSION

## PRESENTERS

**Dr. Reginald Chhen Stewart** - Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Chapman University

**Dr. Meghan Cosier** - Director and Associate Professor, Thompson Policy Institute on Disability, Attallah College of Educational Studies

**Dr. Audri Sandoval Gomez** - Co-Director, Thompson Policy Institute on Disability

**Dr. Amy-Jane Griffiths** - NCSP, Assistant Professor, Attallah College of Educational Studies, Chapman University

**Rachel Wiegand** - Doctoral Student, Attallah College of Educational Studies, Ed.S

**Dr. Charlotte Achieng Evensen** - CalEPIC Senior Transformation Specialist, Thompson Policy Institute on Disability

**Dr. Kevin Nguyen-Stockbridge** - CalEPIC Project Manager, Thompson Policy Institute on Disability

**Jill Perez, M.A.** - Program Specialist, SPAIS and APL, Thompson Policy Institute on Disability

### **Excellence in Disability Advocacy Award**

**Dave Cortese,**  
California State Senator

Senator Dave Cortese represents District 15 which encompasses much of Santa Clara County in the heart of Silicon Valley. Along with his accomplished career as an attorney and business owner, the Senator previously served on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, the San Jose City Council, and the East Side Union High School District Board.



**Keynote Presenter**  
**Diana Pastora Carson,**  
**M.Ed.**

Disability Advocate,  
Educator, and Founder of  
Beyond Awareness

Diana Pastora Carson has been an educator for over 30 years, teaching both at the elementary school level and the university level. She is a consultant and trainer on diversity as it relates to disability and is the author of several articles and books, including *Beyond Awareness: Bringing Disability into Diversity Work in K-12 Schools & Communities*, as well as her children's book, *Ed Roberts: Champion of Disability Rights*. She has compiled her disability awareness teachings in a digital course entitled "Beyond Awareness: Disability Awareness That Matters." Her Beyond Awareness work has earned her statewide PTA recognitions in the areas of advocacy and outreach, as well as her school's designation of Teacher of the Year. She has also been featured on several radio programs and television news stories and served two terms on the board of directors of Disability Rights California. She currently serves as a board member of Disability Voices United. Although Diana experiences disability herself, she credits her brother, Joaquin Carson, for her passion for inclusion, disability advocacy, and activism. Joaquin endured years of segregated schooling and subsequent institutionalization. Diana takes the most pride in knowing that after many years of fighting for his release, Joaquin now lives a life of inclusion and quality, in the community, as her next door neighbor.