

COHORT 2021 DIRECTORY

TEAM 1: SACNet PILOTS

*Facilitator **Assistant Facilitator



Samantha Blackwood, DWR

My name is Samantha Blackwood. I've been with the Department of Water Resources, Human Resources for almost 10 years. Before that I worked for the University of California, Davis. I worked in environmental science for several years before making the switch to HR. Although those two worlds seem different, whether it is through science or by working with people, my underlying passion has always been to make things better.



Jennifer Crockett, CPUC

Hello fellow members! I have worked for the state for almost 20 years. The first 7 or so were spent with Parks and the last 12+ have been with the Public Utilities Commission. I have primarily worked in HR and have a passion for all things related to talent (recruiting, hiring, developing, training, coaching, mentoring, strategic and workforce/succession planning) and especially love connecting people with technology.

I am a mother to two boys, one of which is Autistic so I also have a passion for helping people understand neurodiversity and how to open minds and hearts to how we all experience the world in a different way. When I am not working I love backpacking, snowboarding, yoga, aerial arts, reading and baking.



Susan Fong, DDS

I have worked at the State of California for over 30 years. My first 25 years was with EDD, then at CalPERS for a couple of years and now with DDS. I worked at McClellan AFB in the summers after high school as a student intern in their Technology office. I spent my first year of college at UC Davis thinking I might be an optometrist but taking computer and engineering classes. I decided to transfer to CSU Sacramento and earn a Business Administration, Management Information Systems degree.

After graduation, I worked at CalGas as a consultant, then as an employee in their 4 person IT department. The company was bought out and the headquarters was moved back East. I didn't want to move, so I looked for a job with the State. I have worked in the Information Technology field for almost 40 years. I have seen technology evolve over the years, but the challenges we face and continue to face are also related to people and processes. I hear too often that technology is to blame for service delivery failures. Especially now, as the state's resources are being taxed and stretched, bringing to light the deficiencies and inefficiencies. It's all about People, Process and Technology.



MD Haque, ** DWR

My name is MD Haque. I am a father of a curious 8 year old boy and husband of a lovely wife. I love biking, hiking and white water rafting. I am passionate about making positive difference in collective good. I am a Hawkeye fan (Go hawks!). I consider myself a humble servant of the citizens of California. The word innovation inspires me a lot. I am proud to be part of the wonderful California Department of Water Resources (DWR) team for last 12 years. I am a licensed civil engineer who loves working with movement of water from our mountains to reservoirs, to rivers to pumps or to ocean.

I am a graduate of Cal-IPGCA cohort 2017. I am lucky to be part of the group of seven change agents who founded Cal-IPGCA association. I am proud to be a member of the Cal-IPGCA association moonshot and look forward to continue the journey of innovation and leadership.



Abdul Khan, ** DWR

Hello, innovators! My name is Abdul Khan. This is my 15th year with the California Department of Water Resources. I am a graduate of Cohort 2018. The Cal-IPGCA innovation training taught me that each of us is a moonshot, waiting to be fully realized. In this context, "I am the moonshot" epitomizes the fully realized self, ready to serve California citizens in particular, and all humanity in general. Our individual journey towards self-actualization will continue long after we have completed the Cohort 2021 innovation project.

But I challenge every innovator to realize the moonshot within and CHANGE "the nine most terrifying words in the English language, 'I'm from the government, and I'm here to help'" to the nine most REASSURING words for EVERY Californian.

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Carlos Lopez, FTB

I have been working for the Franchise Tax Board for 6 years now. The first 4 years I worked out of one of FTB's Southern California offices and have been working out of FTB's main campus in Sacramento for the last two years. I knew at young age that I wanted to work in government, primarily because of the job security and the work/life balance that comes with a career in public service. So far my experience with FTB has only reinforced my belief that I was built for a career in FTB. At this point, my desire to be the best worker I can be comes from pride I take in being the best worker I can be.

However, I do aspire to find a deeper purpose as source of motivation. I've recently been assigned my first trainee, which has given me an opportunity to influence and develop a brand new state work. I relish this opportunity. On a personal note, I am a licensed Certified Public Accountant and a massive sports fan. Go Packers!!!



Malcolm Mitchell, BOA

I am passionate about elevating the performance of processes and people. This passion energizes and guides all that I do and enables me to see challenges as opportunities. Throughout my career in both the public and private sectors, I have been able to apply this passion by leading or participating in programs that integrated people, processes and technology to solve business challenges and elevate organizational performance.

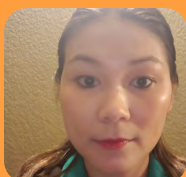
For the past 6 years, I have applied this passion by participating in a variety of process and technology improvement initiatives as an Analyst with the California Board of Accountancy (CBA). Prior to my tenure with the CBA, I spent 17+ years developing and deploying business and IT initiatives as a unit manager and a project/program manager with Hewlett-Packard Company. When I'm not seeking to solve business challenges, I enjoy expanding my personal boundaries through travel, hiking, photography, reading and cooking. I'm honored to serve with my fellow "innovationists" on Cohort 2021 and am looking forward to working with them to help our state government work better for all Californians!



Miko Sawamura, * ORA

Hello to everyone! My name is Miko Sawamura. I am so honored to be a facilitator for Cal-IPGCA Cohort since 2017. I am truly inspired to provide guidance to Cal-IPGCA Cohort 2021 Team 1 – SACNet Pilots to create and innovate our awesome moonshot. I enjoy energizing and motivating people to create and innovate, and that we may "moonshot" nurture our professional and personal lives. Innovation also provides a special opportunity to collaborate together so we can learn and explore supportively from each other.

It is such a privilege to work for the State of California for the past 20 plus years within several departments where I am honored to serve California residents. I currently work for Department of Public Health. I was also privileged to work for private and non-profit companies prior to state service.



Mary Stephens, DMV

Hi everyone! My name is Mary Stephens and I'm the newest member of the SacNet Pilots. At the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), I'm part of an innovating team that evaluate business processes and provides feedback to improve processes. I'm fortunate to have been with the State (at various agencies) for 15 years and counting! My motto is hard work pays off and to model that for my daughter. I look forward to the learning experiences and opportunities that lies ahead. Outside of work, I enjoy the company of my little family, the snow-covered mountains, and luscious greens surrounding a beautiful hike.



Suhail Syed, DOR

I run the strategic initiatives office for the Department of Rehabilitation starting in March 2020. I bring 20+ years of experience at multiple Fortune 100 companies working in both technical and managerial roles. I am passionate about organizational change management using LEAN principles.



Kuo Jen Kolin Tseng, DMV

Hello everyone, my name is Kuo Jen Kolin Tseng but I go by Kolin. I've been with the state for 9 years and it's all been with DMV. I'm with the Driver Safety Branch of DMV and have had great and positive experiences in the various roles within this branch. Prior to state service I've worked in the private sector of management and claims. I recently bought a house and have been renovating throughout this cohort session so don't be startled if you see paint on me! It's been a pleasure so far working with all of you and looking forward to the rest of the cohort sessions.