

# COHORT 2021 DIRECTORY

## TEAM 4: THE UNIFIERS

\*Facilitator \*\*Assistant Facilitator



**Edward Camargo, FTB**

My name is Edward Camargo. I am part of Team Unifiers. I work at the Franchise Tax Board. I inspire a team of employees to answer questions regarding taxes from our customers. I come from a large family and in turn have a large family myself. I have had time to watch my children grow into adults and be involved with their education. I provided a voice for my kids and others at School Board meetings and by participating at the schools they attended. I learned a lot from those experiences and from my work history.

I have seen a lot of kids at different schools become homeless, some were even alone and homeless. I opened my heart, my house and my family to the idea of helping one another. I see this project as a way to continue in helping all. I have been on the wrong end of a police gun because of my nationality. I see injustice in the way a person of color can be treated. As a grandfather to several mixed race children, I want them to grow up and be safe.



**Sean Harrison,\*\* DMV**

Sean Harrison left the private sector to pursue her purpose of “Serving with Integrity.” She worked in finance for local educational agencies such as Sacramento City Unified School District and Elk Grove Unified School District before changing to state government. As a scholarship recipient, Ms. Harrison participated in the California Innovation Playbook for Government Change Agents (Cal-IPGCA) 2019 Cohort.

Ms. Harrison currently serves as the Asian Pacific State Employee Association’s Statewide Treasurer and the Equal Opportunity Committee Co-Chairperson. She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. A native of Sacramento, Ms. Harrison volunteers as a dog handler at the Front Street Animal Shelter and enjoys riding her motorcycle.



**Veronica Jeter, FTB**

Hello Cohort O.N.E. team! My name is Veronica Jeter. I’ve worked for the State of CA for a little over 15 years, looking forward to 15 more. While at Franchise Tax Board, I’ve worked in collections, training and now fraud detection. In my current position, I’m able to do what I enjoy most! I assist with developing coworkers and training new hires, what allows me to help guide them to workloads/areas/departments that will allow them to be happy with their jobs. Outside of my state employee duties I’m active in my church assisting with virtual church service and teen workshops, as well as crafting.



**Dean Lan,\* ORA**

Hi everyone; my name is Dean Lan. I bring decades of experience in the public, non-profit, and academic sectors with a career commitment to advancing racial and economic equity. Before retiring from state service from the Department of Health Care Services, I led the Civil Right Office in being the top-ranked Department (of 144 state departments) in compliance with the state’s 17 civil rights laws. I co-chaired the Governor’s Committee on Hiring of People with Disabilities and recently was the executive sponsor of the California Department of Housing & Community Development’s Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE).

I coordinated the department’s development of racial equity action plans that outline action steps toward increasing equity through organizational commitments and workforce development. I’ve trained policymakers, businesses, and other institutions on diversity, inclusion, equal employment and equity. The Governor’s Office invited me to make presentations on California’s diversity and inclusion best practices at the National Governor’s Association. I’ve taught ethnic studies and racial justice classes at the University of California (Berkeley and Davis), and have several publications on the topics. I’m excited and honored to be facilitating Team Unifiers where I continue my passion working on equity.



**Diane Letoto, FTB**

Diane Letoto has been with the State of California for 12 years. In 2018, Diane was hired by the Franchise Tax Board where she recently joined their Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. While in state service, Diane was involved with EEO, conducted EEO and diversity trainings, and served on the California Civil Rights Officers’ Council. She also worked at the Department of Health Care Services where she served on a joint task force for the Department of Public Health Equities California Disparities Project that reviewed contracts to provide services to disparate communities.

Diane has a PhD in Political Science and was an adjunct lecturer for the University of Hawai’i and Hawai’i’s community colleges where she taught classes in political science, women’s studies, dance theory, and Asian cultures. Her academic writings and conference presentations focused on the entanglement of politics and, media and cultural productions that tend to reinforce preconceived notions of others. In addition, Diane co-founded and ran a non-profit organization for over 20 years. Diane is passionate about wellness and would like to see innovations to wellness as the wedge that breaks down boundaries and moves beyond racism.

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**Christine Lopez, DMV**

I began my career with the Department of Motor Vehicles in 2000 and joined the Field Operations Division in August 2018. The Field Operations Division is the public face of state government with 184 offices providing services to over 39 million people annually. I am passionate about modernizing DMVs departments' field offices by implementing operational efficiencies and ensuring employee satisfaction.

I believe that exceptional leaders go out of their way to inspire and motivate their teams. A critical part of my role is to ensure my employees achieve their professional goals and objectives. I believe that when people have confidence in themselves, they can make amazing accomplishments. When not working I enjoy spending time with my family and traveling to tropical destinations.



**Denise McKnight, DOR**

My name is Denise McKnight. Employed for over 30 years with the Department of Rehabilitation. I am passionate about education, growth, travel and family. I am a public servant at heart. I am working to help others become independent, discover their passions, and live their dreams.



**Morgan O'Brien, \*\* DWR**

I am a people-focused engineer. I currently work as a Senior Engineer Project Manager for the CA Department of Water Resources, on major flood risk reduction projects around the Sacramento Area. I am very interested in leadership and strive to lead from wherever I am in an organization. This has resulted in taking on a few extra roles, including Leadership Development Coordinator for the Floodplain Managers Association Emerging Professionals Committee, as well as being the Professional Advisor to the UC Davis Society of Women Engineers section. I am an avid backpacker, who enjoys reading, as well as restoring our 1925 home.

I believe that there is always an opportunity to learn and be better, and often quote Brene Brown. I like to dive into topics that are hard to talk about because that's where I find the most growth. I graduated from Cal-IPGCA with Cohort 2019, and I'm proud of the work my innovation team (CalTogether) accomplished that has led Cohort 2021 to its launch of the SACNet Skills Bank. This year I am supporting "The Unifiers" as an Assistant Facilitator. I look forward to getting to know you!



**Bobby Dalton Roy, DOE**

My name is Bobby Dalton G. Roy. At the California Department of Education, my colleagues and I influence attitudes, guide behaviors, and create conditions so that the millions of students in California's pre-K through grade 12 classrooms obtain a meaningful and relevant education. We believe that, as enshrined in the California Constitution, all students deserve a free, high-quality, and equitable education no matter their family's income level and background.

We believe that every caring adult wants the next generation to have a better life than the current one. We believe that California, the nation, and the world benefits from a well-educated society. Our work is important because while students are a fraction of our population, they are 100 percent of our future. We have come to a time, in our community and our world, where everyone is afraid of everyone. People use social splatter to call each other names and talk past one another, even while sitting in the same room. We label our neighbors, family members, co-workers, and strangers as the other, robbing ourselves of our common ground. We can't go on like this, and we must build bridges across our differences. Let's reclaim our story. Let's talk about what keeps us apart. Let's talk about what brings us together. Let's talk about what time it is on the clock of our community and our world and what we can do to make a difference. As a Unifiers member, I invite you join us and address these topics, together.



**Nancy Wentling, DOR**

My name is Nancy Wentling and I hail from the California Department of Rehabilitation where we believe in the talent and potential of individuals with disabilities. We leverage creativity, ingenuity, and innovation to support Californians with disabilities of all ages in their pursuit of employment, independence, and equality. Painting a picture of what is possible, designing pathways on which to walk, run, or roll, infusing belief in self and community, and investing in our youth who represent the future of our great State – these commitments warm my heart and feed my soul.

I remain dedicated to instilling hope for the future and breathing belief into those who need a hand up to follow their own "why." I am a proud member of the Unifiers team addressing systemic racism with an intent to create an energized unified movement that will welcome and celebrate the diversity of California – a celebration that will embody the spirit of "One System, One State, One World, One People." Additionally, the Unifiers will rise up to develop a holistic whole system approach so unhoused and at-risk children and youth in California receive the social services needed to thrive beyond their current circumstances and strive for unlimited possibilities.