

## Mt. SAC Board of Trustees



### Peter Hidalgo, *Clerk*

#### Area 1

**Peter Hidalgo** was elected to the Mt. SAC Board of Trustees in 2020 to represent Area 1, which covers North Pomona, San Dimas, La Verne, and south Glendora.

Peter is a government affairs executive in the telecommunications industry, with over 20 years of experience in both public and private industry leading public affairs and communication teams. He previously served as press secretary for former Los Angeles Mayor Richard

Riordan.

Giving back to the youth of the greater Los Angeles area has been a longtime priority for Trustee Hidalgo. He is a board member for The Learning Centers at Fairplex, Just Us 4 Youth, and LAs BEST Board. He also serves as chair of the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership.

Ecuadorian-born Peter attended Citrus College, where his experience as a student leader set the course for his professional life in public affairs. He later earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Azusa Pacific University in Organizational Leadership.

(elected in 2020)

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## Mt. SAC Board of Trustees



### Mr. Gary Chow, *President*

#### Area 2

**Mr. Gary Chow**, a Walnut resident, was appointed interim trustee on June 13, 2018.

Chow represents Area 2, which encompasses Covina, West Covina, north Walnut, and SanDimas. He was elected to the Board in the general election on November 6, 2018.

Chow is a Certified Public Accountant for Tinana & Chow, CPAs, with technical expertise in corporate, partnership, trust and individual taxes. He also is a Registered Investment Advisor for GT Management Group Inc. focusing on cash flow generating investment strategies using option contracts.

Chow serves as chair of Walnut Valley Unified School District's bond oversight committee. He also sits on Mt. SAC's Community Facilities Plan Advisory Committee and acts as the financial advisor for the Mt. SAC Foundation. He also served as a City of Walnut Stadium Task Force member in 2008.

Chow is the current treasurer and a board member for the SGV Charitable Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit which supports Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, U.S. military members and local educational institutions in the San Gabriel Valley. He is the treasurer for the Golden Eagle District of the Boy Scouts of America and also the Chartered Organization Representative for BSA Troop 737.

In 2015, he received the District Award of Merit for the Golden Eagle District of the Boy Scouts of America and in 2017 received the Silver Beaver Award from the Greater Los Angeles Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

# Mt. SAC Board of Trustees



## Laura Santos, *Member* Area 3

**Laura Santos** was elected to the Board of Trustees in 2013 and ran unopposed in the 2018 election. She represents District 3(Baldwin Park, Irwindale, and portions of Bassett and West Covina), and previously served on the Basset Unified School District Board.

Ms. Santos earned a B.A. in political science at UCLA and a law degree at UC Davis. She practiced law for ten years and is now a Public Relations Specialist. She has more than 20 years of experience in community and grassroots outreach and organizing. Much of her career has been spent working in communities of need to address equity and justice issues in education, health, poverty, and access to parks and open space. Ms. Santos possesses the strong skills in building strong working relationships with leaders, recruiting and engaging stakeholders, and volunteers. She specializes in developing strategies that inform, educate, build support, and generate a call to action.

(re-elected in 2022)  
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## Mt. SAC Board of Trustees



### Robert F. Hidalgo, *Member*

[Area 4](#)

**Robert Hidalgo** was elected to the Mt. SAC Board of Trustees on Nov. 5, 2013, representing the newly created District 4, which represents most of West Covina and Valinda. Previously, Hidalgo served on the Rowland Unified School Board of Education to which he was elected in 2005 and again in 2009. In addition, he has served on the executive board for the California Latino School Board Association, Los Angeles County School Trustees Association, and the La Puente Valley Regional Occupational Program. He currently serves as the Vice President of the Los Angeles County School Trustees Association.

Hidalgo, a West Covina resident, has over 20 years of experience in public education, having taught at both middle and high schools. He currently serves as an Assistant Principal at Glen A. Wilson High School in Hacienda Heights.

Hidalgo earned his bachelor's degree at CSU Fullerton in history with a minor in political science. He went on to complete his master's degree in Educational Leadership at Cal Poly Pomona. He currently is a doctoral student at Cal Poly Pomona.

(re-elected in 2022)

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## Mt. SAC Board of Trustees



### Jay F. Chen, *Member*

#### Area 5

**Jay Chen** was elected to represent Mt. SAC Trustee Area 5, which covers Hacienda Heights and La Puente, in 2015 after serving on the Board of Education for Hacienda La Puente Unified School District for eight years. He was reelected in 2020 and serve as Mt.SAC Board President in 2021.

He was twice elected President of the Board of Education for Hacienda La Puente by his peers, and has served two terms on the La Puente Valley Regional Occupational Program, including as the President of the Board. He has also served on the Metro Regional Connector Leadership Council, Los Angeles Library Commission, and CAL-SOAP committee.

A graduate of San Gabriel Valley public schools and Harvard University, Jay previously worked as a management consultant and currently owns his own real estate business. He is a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Naval Reserve, and completed a deployment in the Middle East as an intelligence officer for the campaign to defeat ISIS in 2020. A Marshall Memorial Fellow, he speaks Mandarin and Spanish.

Jay lives in the District with his wife Karen and two young children.

(re-elected 2020)

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## Mt. SAC Board of Trustees



### Judy Chen Haggerty, Esq., *Member*

#### Area 6

Judy Chen Haggerty has served as a member of the Mt. SAC Board of Trustees since 2001. Trustee Chen Haggerty serves the area of Rowland Heights, a portion of Diamond Bar, and south Walnut. She was the first Asian-American to serve on the Mt. SAC Board.

In October 2019, she was the top vote getter for a director-at-large seat on the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Board. She completed her term in 2022 as the only female Asian serving on the

Board. She is reprising her role on the ACCT Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, where she previously served as chair. She has also served as chair of the Asian, Pacific Islander, and Native American Caucus.

Trustee Chen Haggerty's leadership role in national and statewide projects advocating for diversity in the community college system includes being a founding member of the AAPITA (Asian American Pacific Islander Trustees and Administrators), six years working on the CLASS Initiative for Student Success, a longtime member of the Community College League of California's Advisory Committee on Educational Services (ACES), an evaluation team member of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), and serving on the ACCT Charles Kennedy Equity Awards Committee for two years and as the 2019 Chair.

Trustee Chen Haggerty has been a practicing attorney since 1986, a community college law professor for 20 years, and currently serves on the governing board of Whittier Hospital Medical Center. Her 40-year community service profile includes: founding director of FORUS Foundation (Rowland Unified School District), founding president of Rowland Chinese Association, executive board member for the Mt. SAC

Foundation, Vice President of the Rowland Heights Community Coordinating Council, board member of Walnut/Diamond Bar Sheriff’s Booster Club, member of Walnut Valley Rotary Club, and 10-year board member of the Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital.

(re-elected 2022)

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# Mt. SAC Board of Trustees



## Dr. Manuel Baca, *Vice President*

### Area 7

Dr. Manuel Baca was first elected to the Mt. SAC Board of Trustees in 1999. Trustee Baca represents Area 7, which covers Pomona and north Diamond Bar, where he and his wife, Gloria, reside. During his tenure on the governing board, he has served multiple terms as president.

Trustee Baca's professional experience spans the state university and community college systems. He is currently a Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Rio Hondo College in Whittier, where he held key

academic and administrative positions including interim president. He is also adjunct faculty member with the California State University, Los Angeles Charter School of Education (EdD Program).

Dr. Baca is former President (2012-14) of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors, which sets policy, establishes regulations, and provides guidance for the 73 districts and 116 colleges that comprise the nation's largest public higher education system. In addition to other appointed positions, he served on the California Community Colleges System Strategic Planning Steering Committee (2005) and the Student Success Task Force (2011), which led to the formulation and passage of the Student Success Act of 2012. In addition, the Task Force on Workforce, Job Creation, and a Strong Economy was initiated while he was chair of the Board of Governors. Currently, Dr. Baca is a member of the advisory committee for Wheelhouse, The Center for Community College Leadership and Research at UC Davis, and Immediate Past Chair of the Foundation for California Community Colleges (offices in Sacramento).

Trustee Baca earned an associate degree from Rio Hondo College and received his other undergraduate degree and graduate degree at California State University, Fullerton. His Doctorate (PhD) in Education is from the University of California (USC) and completed post-graduate work at UCLA. His involvement with a



number of community-based agencies and professional organizations within the Los Angeles area and the San Gabriel Valley is extensive. An active supporter and advocate for veterans, Dr. Baca served in the United States Marine Corps.

(re-elected 2020)

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## Mt. SAC Board of Trustees



### Juan Mendoza, *Student Trustee*

Mt. San Antonio College Associated Students

**Juan Mendoza** is the Student Trustee for the 2021-2022 academic year. Juan has yet to decide his major but is interested in pursuing a career in law, and looks forward to transferring to California State University, Northridge or UCLA, then on to law school.

Juan participated in the Associated Students Campus Equity and Diversity Committee and finds support through the ACCESS, Dream

and EOPS programs.

Juan was diagnosed with Alstrom Syndrome at birth and is blind and hearing impaired. He shares this quote from Helen Keller: "The only thing worse than being blind is having sight with no vision."

Juan is a resident of El Monte. His hobbies are reading, listening to all kinds of music, listening to audiobooks, and hanging out with friends.

(re-elected in 2022)

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