



SDSU Leadership Summit 2021 Conference Program

Welcome!

On behalf of a team of dedicated staff, we welcome you to the 2021 SDSU Leadership Summit! This year's theme revolves around the concept of "leadership in action." Today's world needs strong leaders. What skills and characteristics are needed to make successful leaders? We are eager to discuss the strategies needed to develop strong leadership skills.

To achieve this, we have a dynamic program planned for the day, which will include insight from university leaders, skill-building workshops, networking opportunities, and words of wisdom from our keynote speakers.

Our virtual conference will take place via Zoom over three days. Friday's welcome speaker is Christian Holt, SDSU's current Associated Students president. Saturday's keynote speaker is Sophia Nelson, an author and adjunct professor of philosophy & religion at Christopher Newport University in Virginia. We are happy to welcome Sophia, a San Diego State University alumna, back to the virtual Mesa. Sunday's keynote speaker is Todd Gloria, the 37th Mayor of San Diego, California. Mayor Gloria is the first person of color and the first openly gay person to serve as San Diego's mayor. Our dynamic speakers will share their personal leadership journeys and what it means to be an "action oriented" leader.

Enjoy what we hope will be a transformative experience,
The SDSU Leadership Summit Planning Team

2021 San Diego State University Conference Schedule

Friday, February 19, 2021 from 4pm-7pm PST

4:00-4:30pm	Welcome to Day 1 (Zoom Webinar)
4:30-5:15pm	Breakout Session #1 (<i>Zoom Meetings</i>)
5:30-5:50pm	Welcome Speaker, Christian Holt (Zoom Webinar)
6:00-6:45pm	Breakout Session #2 (<i>Zoom Meetings</i>)
6:45pm	Closing Reflections (Zoom Webinar)

Have a question? Visit Friday's virtual [Information Booth](#).

Saturday, February 20, 2021 from 9am-1pm PST

9:00-9:45am	Keynote Speaker, Sophia Nelson (Zoom Webinar)
10:00-10:45am	Breakout Session #3 (<i>Zoom Meetings</i>)
11:00-11:45am	Participant Meet & Greet Social
	Last Name A-L: (Zoom Meetings)
	Last Name M-Z: (Zoom Meetings)
12:00-12:45pm	Breakout Session #4 (<i>Zoom Meetings</i>)
12:45pm	Closing Reflections (Zoom Webinar)

Have a question? Visit Saturday's virtual [Information Booth](#).

Sunday, February 21, 2021 from 10am-12pm PST

10:00-10:45am	Breakout Session #5 (<i>Zoom Meetings</i>)
11:00-11:45am	Keynote Speaker, Mayor Todd Gloria (Zoom Webinar)
11:45am	Closing Reflections (Zoom Webinar)

Have a question? Visit Sunday's virtual [Information Booth](#).

Keynote Speakers



Mayor Todd Gloria was sworn in at the 37th Mayor of the City of San Diego on December 10, 2020. He is the first person-of-color and the first LGBTQ person to ever be elected the city's Mayor.

Mayor Gloria is a former San Diego City Councilmember, City Council President, Interim Mayor, and California State Assemblymember.

A native San Diegan, Mayor Gloria's lifelong career in public service was inspired by a lesson his parents – a hotel maid and a gardener – taught him at a young age: if you care about something, then you should leave it better than you found it. That lesson continues to motivate Mayor Gloria to improve the city every single day.

Mayor Gloria is a graduate of the University of San Diego and an enrolled member of the Tlingit Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. He lives in the neighborhood of Mission Hills.



Sophia Nelson, Esq., is an award-winning author of two non-fiction books and an award-winning journalist for her groundbreaking feature magazine articles. She has appeared on every major network, media outlet, and cable news show platform. Her work and advice have been endorsed by top writers, journalists and business leaders. Nelson is currently an Adjunct Professor of Philosophy & Religion at Christopher Newport University in Virginia.

A former Congressional Committee Investigative counsel and corporate lobbyist, Nelson left legal practice in 2007 to pursue her passion to become a journalist. In 2008, she became a freelance reporter and White House correspondent for JET magazine. She is now a noted TV and radio personality, as well as a highly sought-after speaker and leadership trainer.

Nelson has a strong female base of support across racial, religious, and socio-economic lines.



Christian Holt is a senior at San Diego State University studying kinesiology with an emphasis in pre-physical therapy. His involvement within Associated Students (A.S.) began in 2017, when he served on the Student Diversity Commission as a representative of the Afrikan Student Union. As the 2020-2021 A.S. President, Holt works with student representatives to promote cross-campus collaboration and advocate for mental health and financial resources for students.

Friday, February 19, 2021

4pm PST - Welcome

Welcome to Day 1 of the SDSU Leadership Summit ([Zoom Webinar](#))

Recommended for all participants to attend

4:30pm PST - Breakout Session #1

Using Personal Strengths to Form Efficient Teams

([Zoom Link](#))

What are your individual strengths? How do you utilize your leadership style to create a healthy and prosperous team environment? Join me as we explore how shared governance and agency are cornerstones of any successful and sustainable organization. Through introspective exploration and a fun personality assessment, we will explore how to lead efficiently.

Rogelio Becerra Songolo, Student Life & Leadership, SDSU

“Do I Belong Here?” Understanding and Working Through the Impostor Phenomenon

([Zoom Link](#))

The Impostor Phenomenon arises when you question your ability despite your capabilities and successes. This session explores transition as it pertains to imposterism. Join me as we identify when it occurs, the dynamic concept of the “self,” the value of “capital,” and best practices to overcome impostor phenomenon.

Todd Kennedy, Military and Veterans Programs, SDSU

Adaptive Leadership: Using Improv Theater Rules to Get Unstuck

([Zoom Link](#))

When facing large levels of new information and uncertainty, we are easily overwhelmed and can be paralyzed into indecision. Adaptive leadership, emotional intelligence and the rules of improv theater can all be tools to help us get “unstuck” and start making progress once again.

Dr. Kenneth Lamb, Student Innovation Idea Lab, Cal Poly Pomona University

Lead & Transform: An Intersectional and Inclusive Approach to Leadership ([Zoom Link](#))

The unique identities of individuals, along with worldview experiences generated from diverse interactions, can often be the basis for inclusive leadership. The challenge becomes translating varying personal identities and multicultural experiences into transformational change. Come join me as we explore how intersections of identity influence leaders to create inclusive change.

Dr. Renzo Lara, Latin@/x Center, California State University San Marcos

Upskilling Yourself to a Career ([Zoom Link](#))

From the top resume mistakes to avoid, to the top ways of upskilling yourself, this interactive session will provide you with the tools to support your career success. Learn how your transferable skills will make you more marketable in your job/internship search and how to leverage your network.

Natalia Peddycoart, Career Services, SDSU

Melissa Gonzalez, Career Services, SDSU

Activating Your Community in Response to National Division ([Zoom Link](#))

This session will explore how students can respond to President Joe Biden's calls for unity by becoming greater community members through servant leadership. We will review the most relatable components of servant leadership (listening, empathy, healing, and building community) and connect them back to where the country is now. Other discussion topics will include takeaways from President Biden's inauguration speech, and the responsibility students have in ensuring our campus community feels safe and heard.

Corey Polant, University Relations and Development, SDSU

Malerie McNeill, SDSU Alumni, SDSU

Navigating Toxic Masculinity in Your Role as a Student Leader ([Zoom Link](#))

This session will discuss how we tend to define masculinity in our society and the barriers it places on men growing up. Join us as in a conversation on what we can do to begin opening our thinking on masculinity in our society and what role you play as a student leader to begin breaking down the stigma and stereotype of what being a man looks like in our own campus communities.

Kevin Rush, Residential Education Office, SDSU
Jeff Romero, Global Campus, SDSU

Building Champions And Chasing Victory

([Zoom Link](#))

Doctors said he would not be mentally older than 18 months due to his autism and that he should be placed in an institution. That institution turned out to be law school. Come hear the amazing story of Erik Weber, a San Diegan who truly believes that adversity makes a person stronger. This session is a sports speech that defines championship as being a constructive leader who helps others develop their own abilities. We will also discuss the difference between “title” and “championship,” distinguish “boss” from “leader,” and specify prerequisites (camaraderie, confidence, cohesiveness) of a championship team.

Erik N. Weber, Attorney, Team Skybirds

Training the Dragon Within: Transforming Values into Action

([Zoom Link](#))

This session will take a unique approach on discovering what it is to be a leader in action during trying times. Using DreamWorks “How to Train Your Dragon” as a foundation of conversation, we will discuss how your core values influence the leader you aspire to be. You will participate in discussions on being a leader under pressure, and how the presence of self-confidence, community building, and authenticity will be supporting factors in making a positive change in your current and future leadership roles.

Tanner Wilson, Student Life & Leadership, SDSU

Kaleigh Lacouture, Student Life & Leadership, SDSU

We understand that there could be technical challenges that prevent presenters from beginning their Zoom or facilitating their workshops. We suggest you wait 5 minutes for the presenter to join, and then select another breakout session workshop to attend.

Questions? Visit Chelsea, coordinator of the Leadership Summit, in the [Information Booth](#) or email her at cwiner@sdsu.edu.

5:30pm PST - Welcome Speaker

Welcome Speaker, Christian Holt ([Zoom Webinar](#))

Recommended for all participants to attend

6:00pm PST - Breakout Session #2

Full Circle of Employment: Job Readiness

([Zoom Link](#))

In order to secure your dream job, campus employment or internship you'll first need to nail the interview! Through this session you will be learning the best practices of employment. Including but not limited to applying to a job, preparing for the interview and leaving the job.

Omar Baza, Student Life & Leadership, SDSU

Mental Health Awareness: Advice from a Graduate Student

([Zoom Link](#))

Now more than ever, college students, especially college student leaders, are encountering high levels of anxiety, stress, and burnout due to the virtual learning environment necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This session will use personal narratives and resources to promote acceptance and awareness about mental health and how to manage it with self care techniques.

Michelle Halverson, Student Life & Leadership, SDSU

The Power of Gratitude

([Zoom Link](#))

This session will discuss what gratitude is as well as how gratitude can influence the success of an organization. In order to understand the benefits of gratitude we are going to also have to examine why individual's struggle to show and accept gratitude, and what we can do to overcome this struggle. Finally we will consider how practicing gratitude can strengthen an organization.

Robert Jones, Doctoral Candidate, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota

Strategies for Job Search Success

([Zoom Link](#))

Are you interested in learning how to navigate the job search process virtually? Do you have a virtual interview coming up? Come learn how to stand out from the crowd and see how easy the job search can be!

Helen Ma, Student Life & Leadership, SDSU

Leadership & Career Development: Doing Good Does Good for You

([Zoom Link](#))

Serving on a board, commission, or committee can be a rewarding experience for service-minded leaders, while providing opportunities to grow your network, learn new skills, and grow leadership abilities. Join us to discuss the impact of sharing your expertise and making your voice heard while contributing towards the greater good of your community.

Claudia Martinez, Career Services, SDSU

Karina Wong, Impact Teacher, Valley Elementary School

SDSU Alumni Panel: How to be a Leader in an Entry-Level Position

([Zoom Link](#))

Knowing how to be a leader in an entry-level position can be challenging and navigating through work politics can be intimidating. Come listen to how these four recent graduates have been able to establish themselves as leaders in their respective fields, even during a global pandemic.

Patty Masengale, SDSU Alumni, SDSU

Dominic Bilotti, Senior Internal Broker/Dealer Consultant, Vanguard

Leo Carrillo, CEO & Co-Founder, Hair Craft Co.

Tianna Williams, Sales Trainer, Chatmeter

Danielle Foley, Business Development Representative, Okta, Inc.

Leadership Lessons: Student & Alumni Leader Panel Session

([Zoom Link](#))

Hear from current and former student leaders of San Diego State University as they discuss how the skills they gained from their leadership positions translate into real-world action. There will also be time for a live Q & A session among panelists and attendees.

Michele Mignogna, Student Life & Leadership, SDSU
Tony Roulhac, Student Life & Leadership, SDSU

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6:45pm PST - Closing Reflections

Closing Reflections for Day 1 & Preparation for Day 2 ([Zoom Webinar](#))
Recommended for all participants to attend

Saturday, February 20, 2021

9am PST - Keynote Speaker

Keynote Speaker, Sophia Nelson ([Zoom Webinar](#))

Recommended for all participants to attend

10:00am PST - Breakout Session #3

Secrets of a Hiring Manager: How to Interview for the Job

([Zoom Link](#))

Have you ever wondered what hiring managers think and how they evaluate you as a candidate? Learn how to make yourself the obvious choice for the job that's right for you! Each attendee will receive a cheat sheet to help with future interview preparation.

Debbie S. Deas, Student Service, University of California Washington Center

Life After Graduation in a Pandemic: Leading in a Virtual Space

([Zoom Link](#))

Mapping out the next steps into your post-graduate life can be daunting, let alone in the middle of a pandemic. Join me in learning about my experience as a recent graduate who had to navigate the start of a new career amid a pandemic, and how I was able to find innovative ways to lead. This session will provide you with tips and talking points to help you identify your own successes in this virtual world.

Alexa Diaz, Academic Success Coordinator, California State University San Marcos

Motivation, Morale & Empowerment

([Zoom Link](#))

How can you as a leader motivate your organization or group? During these difficult times, how do you maintain and boost morale? How do you

empower those around you? In this session, participants will learn how to tap into their motivational muscles and empower those around them with commitment, creativity, productivity, satisfaction and autonomy.

Audrey Moreno, Leadership Development and Innovation, University of Denver

Restoring Dignity: Enacting an Equity-Minded Approach to Leadership

([Zoom Link](#))

This highly interactive session will engage you in redefining Leadership as an embodied, anti-racist, equity-minded practice. We are living in a moment where dignity in Leadership needs restoration. You will have an opportunity to co-create a Leadership vision. Engage and experience an equity-minded approach to leading others.

Andrew Mutsalklisana, Native Resource Center, SDSU

Dr. Lisa Gates, College of Education, SDSU

Ethics in Leadership: The Road to Effectiveness

([Zoom Link](#)) if it asks for a passcode, please enter "1"

In the university setting, everyday decisions are made in different ways by different people. What can ethics offer in the context of the operating processes of Higher Education? Let's discuss how ethics creates trust in the relationships of people, subordinates, and leaders and how this leads to effectiveness.

Theofanis Papastathis, Doctoral Candidate, University of Macedonia, Greece

"There's No "I" in Lead (but there is an "I" in Leadership!)"

([Zoom Link](#))

In today's world, there are many definitions and examples of leadership. In some cases, leadership and service are discussed separately but can they be one in the same? Can you serve those you lead? We will explore definitions of leading and serving, including those from participants, to answer these questions.

Christina Waszak, Student Activities and Leadership, Borough of Manhattan Community College

Y'all Means All: The Power of Inclusive Language

([Zoom Link](#))

Come learn about how you can use your language to make your environment more welcoming for everyone. We will be discussing the difference between inclusive and exclusive language and the effect it has on an environment. In addition, we will be discussing some ways to incorporate these changes in your everyday life.

Armando Zaragoza, Residential Education Office, SDSU

Programming with Integrity

([Zoom Link](#))

Is integrity necessary when programming? Come and join me as we discover how to program with integrity by programming with purpose, appropriate fund use, and building relationships. This session provides tools to navigate when programming. Do not forget that a successful event is the reflection of efficient leadership and accountability.

Rosemary Zometa, Santos Manuel Student Union, CSU San Bernardino

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11:00am PST - Participant Meet & Greet Social

With over 600 participants representing 58 organizations and institutions, we want to offer the opportunity to connect with other leaders.

If you last name begins with A through L, joining this [Zoom Meeting](#)

If you last name begins with M through Z, joining this [Zoom Meeting](#)

12:00pm PST - Breakout Session #4

Compassionate Leadership

([Zoom Link](#))

This session will focus on aspects of compassionate leadership. It will explore the leaders and methods as seen through the perspective of Asian philosophies. It will explore humility in leadership in response to current geopolitical and world health issues. It will deconstruct the non-compassionate leader persona through an exploration of the perils of hubris.

Jennifer Alvarado, Graduate Assistant, SDSU

Jennifer Johnson, Student Leader, SDSU

Action Through Advocacy: Bring Your Own Chair

([Zoom Link](#))

Who and what do you stand for? Leadership and advocacy are not interchangeable; both are necessary tools to foster change. We may not always be invited to spaces to create the changes we want to see, but it is up to us to pave the way.

Annika Daphne Bilog, Registered Nurse/Ph.D. Student, Loma Linda University

Liana Marin, Learning Specialist, M.Ed. Student, University of Southern California

Train-the-Trainer: Hopes & Fears

([Zoom Link](#))

Group leaders have a responsibility to sometimes take the pulse of their group and respond to their needs, especially when the group is coming together for the first time. In this session, participants will learn to facilitate an activity that provides insight into how to approach the work at hand.

Debbie S. Deas, Student Service, University of California Washington Center

Young Chan Lim, Student Development, University of California Washington Center

First-Generation Transfer Students: Pushing Boundaries

([Zoom Link](#))

First-generation transfer students enter the university with multiple strengths and a “go-getter” mentality which they use to seek out new opportunities. In this session, first-year first-generation transfer students will discuss why they have taken academic risks and share strategies that have helped them succeed at the university.

Dr. Martha Enciso, Weber Honors College, SDSU

Marlene Razon, Student Leader, SDSU

Adriana Rios, Student Leader, SDSU

Samantha Alvarado Curiel, Student Leader, SDSU

Product Leadership in Corporate Companies

([Zoom Link](#))

Product leadership in corporate companies is one of the most responsible jobs. It bridges the gap between business and technology, which is the most critical challenge for every corporate company. It is responsible for making the right product decisions and defining the vision around these products. With dedication and the right preparations, we can be the product leaders. Join me to learn what it takes to be a product leader.

Rakshith Halevoor, Product Manager, Amazon

The Art of Navigating through Challenging Times

([Zoom Link](#))

A leader is often seen as someone capable of lifting others up, a bright example of integrity that can turn every negative situation into something positive. Almost blinded by this powerful light, sometimes we tend to leave out the challenging process of what happens behind the curtain of the leadership path. Prepare to sail and join us into the emotional journey of becoming a leader!

Giulia Ricci, Cultural Programs, John Cabot University in Italy

Maria del Pilar Murguia, Student Services, John Cabot University in Italy

LinkedIn Lab

([Zoom Link](#))

Join me as I share tips on how to optimize your LinkedIn profile to stand out from the crowd and how to leverage LinkedIn in your internship or job search. You will learn how to best communicate the transferable skills gained from your student leadership experiences to make you more marketable. Note: If you do not already have a LinkedIn profile, please create a free account at www.linkedin.com before attending this session.

Kristen Ryan, CEO, Magnus Career Consulting

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12:45pm PST - Closing Reflections

Closing Reflections for Day 2 & Preparation for Day 3 ([Zoom Webinar](#))

Recommended for all participants to attend

Sunday, February 21, 2021

10:00am PST - Breakout Session #5

Demonstrating Leadership through Study Abroad & Other International Experiences During COVID-19

([Zoom Link](#))

Discover the possibilities of travelling, even under a pandemic. What skills do you obtain when you participate in study abroad and international experiences? Join us as we share ways to improve your abilities to secure a job and demonstrate leadership. You will walk away with resume and job search tips.

Aracely Bojorquez-Mendoza, Student Success & International Programs and Ph.D. Student, SDSU-IVC and Universidad Autonoma de Baja California

Dr. Jose Moreno Mena, Research Director, Universidad Autonoma de Baja California

Secrets of a Hiring Manager: How to Get Your Resume Noticed

([Zoom Link](#))

You've already practiced leadership in action. Now how do you get a hiring manager to notice your achievements and stand out in a sea of applicants? We'll go beyond resume basics to learn how to use your experience and the job description to write resumes that get noticed! Brave attendees should bring a resume sample and a job description for their chance at a live review.

Debbie S. Deas, Student Service, University of California Washington Center

Finding & Using "Blocks" to Build a Solid Leadership Foundation

([Zoom Link](#))

Are you a new leader or experiencing doubts in your leadership ability? Inspired by "The Lego Movie", this session will help "build" your leadership experience by helping you identify foundational leadership "blocks" to

improve your leadership mindset, maximize your leadership strengths, and utilize resources effectively. While being a leader isn't always easy, you can sing "Everything is Awesome" when you have a solid plan in place!

Matthew H. Garcia, Student Life & Leadership, SDSU

Your Personal Brand @ Work: Leveraging the Power of Relationships & Influence to Accelerate Career Success

[\(Zoom Link\)](#)

Do you run into roadblocks with your boss, team members, or customers? Many students and professionals have blind spots that unknowingly hold them back from achieving desired results. You will learn the key principles that high performing employees master to maximize their effectiveness, set themselves apart from the crowd, and reach their goals with more successful outcomes.

Mike Gellman, CEO, High Five Career Coaching

Unpacking Community Cultural Wealth & Leadership

[\(Zoom Link\)](#)

This session will help you understand what Community Cultural Wealth is and how to use it to make you a compassionate and equity minded leader who can uplift others. We will discuss how "capital" is traditionally defined as well as what additional forms of capital exist. You will then be asked to reflect and draw upon examples from their lives/experiences to identify powerful leadership traits they exhibit every day.

Chris Medellin, Native Resource Center, SDSU

Dr. Gaby Kovats-Sanchez, Native Resource Center, SDSU

Excuse Me, Your Personality Is Showing

[\(Zoom Link\)](#)

This session is an opportunity for you to learn your four leadership personality styles and learn how to adapt and shift your behavior when communicating with others. You will be given the opportunity to improve your "people-literacy skills" to improve the human connection to make the world a better place.

Dr. Janet J. Sawyer, Leadership Development Coach and Personality Styles Specialist, JJ Sawyer Consulting, LLC

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11:00am PST - Keynote Speaker

Keynote Speaker, Mayor Todd Gloria ([Zoom Webinar](#))

Recommended for all participants to attend

11:45am PST - Closing Reflections

Closing Reflections for Day 3 & Call to Action ([Zoom Webinar](#))

Recommended for all participants to attend

Thank you!

We thank you for attending the SDSU Leadership Summit. It is our hope that you gained skills and tools that will encourage you to continue your leadership development.

Next week you will receive an email from Chelsea Winer, coordinator of the SDSU Leadership Summit, with the assessment link. Please complete this survey to provide us with valuable feedback. For those pursuing the [SDSU Leadership Certificate](#), we ask that you complete the assessment in order to credit for attending this year's event

We are proud to announce that we had over 600 participants attend this year's conference. You represented 58 different organizations and schools, 23 different states, and 5 countries.

Save the date for next year's SDSU Leadership Summit: **February 19, 2022**. Visit sdsu.edu/leadershipsummit for registration updates.

Questions? Email Chelsea Winer at cwiner@sdsu.edu. Stay connected with Student Life & Leadership on Instagram to learn about future events: [@sllsdsu](#)



Dr. Randy Timm

Associate Vice President for
Campus Life & Dean of Students



Caryl Montero-Adams

Director
Student Life & Leadership



Chelsea Winer

Student Life Advisor
Student Life & Leadership