

Speaker Biographies

(listed in speaking order)

Assemblymember Tony Thurmond

Assemblymember Tony Thurmond represents California's 15th Assembly District which includes the East Bay communities that stretch along the I-80 corridor from Hercules to Oakland.

He serves as Chair of the Assembly Committee on Labor and Employment and a member of the Assembly Committees on Education, Health, Human Services, and Water, Parks and Wildlife. The Assemblymember also serves as Chair of the Assembly Select Committee on STEM Education.

Prior to his election to the Assembly, he served on the Richmond City Council from 2005 to 2008, the West Contra Costa Unified School District from 2008 to 2012 and served as Senior Director of Community and Government Relations at Lincoln Child Center.

A Fellow in the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Children and Family Fellowship program, Assemblymember Thurmond is a graduate and former student body president of Temple University. Assemblymember Thurmond did his graduate work at Bryn Mawr College (Bryn Mawr, PA) where he received dual Masters Degrees in Law and Social Policy and Social Work. He lives in Richmond, California.

Krystal Lomanto, San Benito County Superintendent of Schools

Krystal was born and raised in San Benito County and graduated from San Benito High School in 1983.

She returned in 1990, after teaching for 2 years in Fresno, to teach at San Benito High School. Krystal taught science and was involved outside of the classroom by coaching and being a class and rally club advisor. After eleven years in the classroom at SBHS, Krystal was asked to become the New Teacher Support Program Specialist, where she provided training and support for new teachers.

Krystal was offered an Assistant Principal position at San Benito High School in 2004 and oversaw an array of assignments (master scheduling, required testing oversight, student discipline, student academic oversight, evaluations, ASB, etc.) during her four years as an Assistant Principal. During this time, Krystal was also a North County Joint Union School District board member for six years and a volunteer coach in community. Krystal served on the Emmaus House Board of Directors for three years.

Krystal moved into the principal position at San Benito High School in 2007. Krystal served as the principal for 7 years and moved into the County Office on January 5, 2015. The experiences afforded to Krystal during her 24 years at San Benito High School have provided a comprehensive foundation as she moved into the County Superintendent role. Krystal is currently a board member for the local Hollister Rotary, a member of LULAC and a member of the Hollister Women's Club. Krystal is the education representative for the monthly Intergovernmental Committee where the Mayor, County Supervisors and City Council members discuss pertinent information about our city/county. Krystal currently is a FCMAT board member and represents Region 5 (San Benito, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and Monterey) County Superintendents.

Krystal is married with two sons, Tanner and Dylan. Tanner graduated from UC Davis in June of 2015 and is currently working in the Medical Device field. Dylan graduated from UC Davis this June (YEA) and is looking to find a position as a probation officer, working with youth. Krystal is a **proud** mom and community member who is passionate about serving the students in our county to ensure they are provided with an outstanding education.

Mckinzie Lothrop, GSA President, San Benito High School

Mckinzie Lothrop is a student at San Benito High School and serves as GSA President. GSA is a club that encourages open-minded students to meet in a safe, inclusive environment to discuss issues and be a part of inspiring acceptance on the school campus.

Jo Michael, Legislative Manager, Equality California

Jo Michael is Equality California’s legislative manager, based in Sacramento. He has helped advance over 40 successful pieces of sponsored and supported legislation for the organization. Jo was named one of the Best LGBT Lawyers under 40 by the National LGBT Bar Association for 2015 and is a former co-chair of SacLEGAL, Sacramento’s LGBT bar association. His commitment to working for social justice and LGBTQ civil rights date back to co-founding his high school’s first Gay-Straight Alliance. Jo holds a bachelor's degree in linguistics and psychology from the University of Southern California and a juris doctor from University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law. He is licensed to practice law in California.

Joel Baum, Senior Director, Professional Development, Gender Spectrum

Gender Spectrum’s mission is to create a gender-inclusive world for all children and youth. To accomplish this, we help families, organizations, and institutions increase understandings of gender and consider the implications that evolving views have for each of us.

I facilitate trainings, conduct workshops, develop curriculum, consult with parents/professionals, and provide resources in service of a more compassionate understanding of gender and young people. I have served in a leadership role as the Director of Education and Advocacy with the Child and Adolescent Gender Center at UCSF-Benioff Children’s Hospital. An aspect of my job that I enjoy the most is working throughout the United States (and beyond), to help institutions think more expansively about the gender diversity of all children and teens, and ways to create more inclusive conditions accordingly.

I’ve worked as an educator focused on issues of social justice and equity for over 30 years. My education career began as a middle school science teacher and school administrator. I have also served as a district administrator in Oakland, California, as well as a school reform coach with the National Equity Project and professor at California State University, East Bay in the Department of Educational Leadership.

Tarah Fleming, Education Director, Our Family Coalition

Tarah Fleming is the Education Director, supporting the Welcoming and Inclusive Schools Program. WISP at OFC works with families, teachers, administrators, and other child-serving professionals to create more inclusive and respectful learning environments for all children. WISP supports K-12 educators to implement lessons that include LGBTQ History, family diversity, challenging gender stereotypes, supporting transgender and gender non-binary identities, and anti-bullying strategies.

One of her roles at OFC is the West Coast Expert Trainer for Welcoming Schools, a program of the Human Rights Campaign to improve elementary-school climate through LGBTQ inclusive resources for educators. She has over twenty-five years of experience in the classroom internationally and locally as an educator and facilitator on topics of social justice, equity literacy, anti-bias education and the dynamics of power and privilege. As a white identified, cisgender, heterosexual mother of a mixed heritage teenager, she brings a radical perspective on allied behavior, and a strong desire to work as change agent in multiple solidarity movements. Previously she was the Co-Director for iPride; an organization dedicated

to mixed heritage and multiethnic families, and also developed and co-directed the Youth Action Project, an anti-racist youth conference within the White Privilege Conference. For the past 10 years Tarah has enjoyed directing her consulting practice called “Start Dialog” where she currently provides facilitation and coaching to activists and educators for real system change.

Rick Oculito, Education Manager, Our Family Coalition

As the education coordinator, Rick collaborates with educators and school administrators to implement Welcoming Schools to create safe and LGBTQ-inclusive elementary schools. Rick provides training and support focusing on the recognition and celebration of all families, challenging gender stereotypes, and addressing name-calling and anti-LGBTQ bias and harassment in schools. Formerly the Youth Service Coordinator at Billy DeFrank LGBT Center in San José, Rick developed programs that addressed LGBT youth issues and created the first transgender youth support group in the area. An accomplished speaker and presenter, Rick has conducted trainings for hundreds of students, educators, and youth workers focusing on diversity, harassment, gender stereotypes, and other LGBT issues. Rick holds a dual B.A. degree in Psychology and Spanish from Seattle University in Washington and a Master of Arts Degree in Social Welfare at UC Berkeley specializing in management and planning. Currently, he sits on the board of Streetside Stories, a youth-focused, media arts literacy organization in San Francisco. Additionally, he coordinates volunteer events for SF Gaymers, a social group that recognizes diversity within the gaming community and creates safe spaces for LGBT individuals to game with one another. Rick lives and games in San Francisco and frequently visits his family in the South Bay.

Erik Martinez, Program Manager, LGBTQ Support Services, San Francisco Unified School District

Erik Martinez serves as Program Manager, LGBTQ Support Services for the San Francisco Unified School District. Erik supports safe and supportive school learning environment initiatives throughout SFUSD. His professional interests include youth development, sexual health, and education justice. He brings years of experience working with community-based organizations serving LGBTQ youth and youth of color.

Rick Zbur, Executive Director, Equality California

Rick Zbur is a distinguished lawyer with a long history of advocacy for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, and environmental causes. Zbur retired from Latham & Watkins, one of the world’s largest and most respected law firms, where he was a senior partner and practiced law for 29 years. A lifelong LGBTQ trailblazer, Zbur was Latham & Watkins’ first openly gay attorney and first openly gay partner. He took a leave of absence from his firm in January 1996 to run for Congress in California’s 38th Congressional District, where he became the first openly gay non-incumbent to win a contested primary for U.S. Congress. Zbur is president and chair of the board of the California League of Conservation Voters, the political action arm of California’s environment community, where he leads the organization and oversees its strategic direction. He formerly served on the board of Lambda Legal and was a founding director and vice president at the Children Affected by AIDS Foundation. A proud co-parent to three children with their lesbian co-parents, Zbur grew up in a farming community in the Rio Grande Valley south of Albuquerque, New Mexico, where his mother, Erlinda Chavez Zbur, and her family have lived for generations. Zbur is a graduate of Yale University and Harvard Law School.