

Santa Monica College Business Department

SMC ACCOUNTING DIVERSITY CONFERENCE



FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2024

Accounting Diversity Conference

Friday, April 19, 2024

START	FINISH	EVENT	ROOM
7:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	Registration and Light Breakfast	SSC 391
8:00 a.m.	8:45 a.m.	INTRODUCTION Prof Ming Lu KEYNOTE SPEAKER Okorie Ramsey	SSC 183
9:00 a.m.	9:45 a.m.	Young Accounting Professionals Panel	SSC 183
10:00 a.m.	10:15 a.m.	Group Picture	SSC 183
10:30 a.m.	11:15 a.m.	WORKSHOP #1 Personal Branding presented by EY	SSC 183
11:30 a.m.	12:15 p.m.	Accounting Executives Panel	SSC 183
12:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	Networking Lunch + Headshot Photo Booth	SSC 391
1:45 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	WORKSHOP #2 How to Improve Academic Performance presented by USC	SSC 183
2:30 p.m.	2:40 p.m.	Closing session and drawing for prizes	SSC 183

Keynote Speaker



Okorie Ramsey, CPA, CGMA, PMP, NACD.DC

VP of Sarbanes/Oxley at Kaiser Permanente

Chairman of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

Okorie Ramsey is the Vice President, Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX) for Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc., and Kaiser Foundation Hospitals. In this role, he has responsibility and oversight for the SOX Program, including strategy, testing, and evaluating internal controls and assessing business risk to assist in building an effective internal control over financial reporting for the integrated health care enterprise.

Prior to his current role, Okorie held the position of Vice President, Finance Compliance Officer, where he was responsible for establishing a finance compliance program to support compliance with regulatory and enforcement agencies as well as leading compliance investigations and co-developing remediation activities to address issues identified. In addition to these finance executive roles, Okorie has served in management and leadership roles in public accounting and business and industry.

Okorie currently serves as the Chairman of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the Association of International Certified Professional Accountants (the Association), and previously served on various not-for-profit boards supporting diversity, equity and inclusion in the fields of accounting and finance including the California Society of CPAs Education Foundation, the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA, Inc.), the Accounting Career Awareness Program (ACAP), and LIFE Courses. Okorie has also been named one of the Top 100 Most Influential People in Accounting by Accounting Today.

Accounting Executives Panel



David Davis

Deloitte, Tax Technology Manager

Daviddavis@deloitte.com

David Davis is a manager in Deloitte's tax technology group. David first got involved with Deloitte when he was selected to be a Discovery Intern. Subsequently, in the following Summer, he was also selected to

be a part of the Deloitte International Intern Program where he spent 4 weeks working in Australia. David is a graduate of both Santa Monica College and UCLA.



Jonathan Cardona

Amazon, Senior Program Manager

Jccrdon@amazon.com

Jonathan is an immigrant from El Salvador, a first-generation college graduate, a DACA recipient, and currently pursuing his MBA at the University of Southern California (USC). Jonathan's academic journey began at Santa

Monica College, where he laid the foundation for his future endeavors. Subsequently, he earned a bachelor's degree in Accounting from California State University, Northridge. Jonathan's professional career kicked off at Deloitte, where he honed skills in the Audit Practice and progressed to the role of Senior Auditor. Transitioning to Amazon, he contributed to the Prime Video Global Accounting team before taking on a position within the Finance & Business Integration (FBI) team. In this capacity, Jonathan spearheaded financial controllership with FinTech automation, driving operational efficiencies across various digital business segments, including Amazon Music, Prime Video, eBooks, Audible, and Appstore. Currently, Jonathan is at the forefront of accounting automation initiatives for the Devices and subscription services organization at Amazon, overseeing innovative projects related to Alexa, Ring, Eero, Key, and Zox. Beyond his professional pursuits, Jonathan has a passion for everything outdoors, training for triathlons, playing soccer, and cycling. During his downtime, he enjoys being a dog dad to 2 German Shepherds and a Doberman.



Joel Izaguirre

RSM, Assurance Services Manager

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Joel provides financial and compliance audit services to a variety of financial entities. Joel has practiced public accounting for more than seven years with experience in private and SEC jobs. He focuses primarily on credit unions, banks, and specialty finance institutions, currently serving as the audit manager on Nuvision Federal Credit Union. Joel is also fluent in Spanish.

Joel focuses on how clients benefit from industry-specific experience and technical acumen in specialized areas. In his current role, Joel delivers advice regarding complex accounting matters, assists engagement teams in audit matters, and is responsible for ensuring that reports issued by the firm comply with professional standards.

Joel initially attended Cerritos College. He then earned his bachelor's degree in business with an emphasis in accounting at California State University Long Beach. He also studied for one year in the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos in Lima, Peru.



Tiffany Johnson

The Onyx CPA Group, Inc.

Owner and Chief Financial Officer

tiffany@onyxcpagroup.com

Tiffany Johnson is a Santa Monica College and UCLA graduate and is a licensed Certified Financial Planner™ professional, as well as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). She is the Founder & CEO of The Onyx CPA Group and the HerVenture Growth Workshop where Tiffany and her team of 7 women help business professionals with their tax planning needs, helping them reach their personal and professional financial goals. Tiffany was selected as an honoree in the category of Woman of Diversity for the Comerica Bank Women's Business Awards Program in partnership with the LA Lakers. She received this award during an on court ceremony at the Lakers V. Warriors game in February 2023. In addition to her passion for her clients and her team members, Tiffany enjoys traveling the globe with her husband and two children.

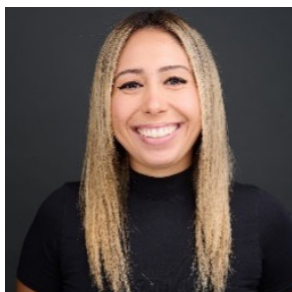


Alexandra Markovich

PwC, Audit Partner

alexandra.t.markovich@pwc.com

Alex is an audit partner in the PwC LA office, serving a mix of technology, entertainment and consumer products companies. Her clients range in size from early stage start-ups with a single product and very little revenue to multi-billion dollar international household brands. Alex is a graduate of UCLA and has worked with PwC for over 20 years in the Bay Area, Europe and most recently here in Los Angeles. She also serves as a Diversity Partner Champion, working to ensure that PwC recruits and retains a diverse set of professionals. On a personal level, Alex lives in Santa Monica, California with her husband and two children, ages 5 and 9.



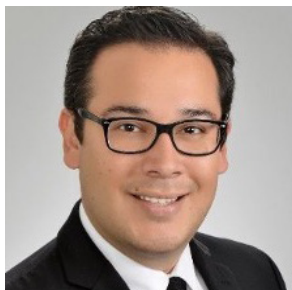
Noms Perez

PwC, Tax Manager

noemi.perez@pwc.com

Noms Perez is a tax manager with PwC's private practice based in Los Angeles, CA. She has more than 6 years of experience in public accounting and has diverse experience in both the private and financial sector, serving clients in the aircraft leasing and private equity industries. She has a strong federal compliance reporting background, and her expertise focuses on income tax provisions (ASC 740) and working with M&A teams advising clients on purchase accounting matters. She has completed a tour in PwC New York Metro's office focusing on public company financial reporting, substantive testing, and internal control testing.

Prior to joining the Private practice, Noms spent several years with PwC's Banking and Capital Markets practice servicing large public leasing and banking clients. Noms earned both a bachelor's degree in accounting and economics from Loyola Marymount University.



Art Rubio

KPMG, Audit Managing Director

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Art is a managing director in KPMG's Los Angeles Investment Management and Real Estate practices. He has more than 13 years of experience providing financial statement audit and audit of internal control services.

Art has provided professional audit services to several large multinational groups in accordance with PCAOB requirements, U.S. GAAP, and IFRS. Art has operated as the engagement lead on the IFRS consolidation and the U.S. GAAP reconciliation on the group level for a leading multinational investment management company. His audit experience ranges from SEC filings, private hedge and real estate fund financial statements to pension and savings plans audits. He has a thorough understanding of GAAP and IFRS rules and regulations and has been involved in several hedge fund and private equity fund audits as well as the audits of publicly traded Business Development Companies. Art has managed several complex global audits for clients in investment management.

Young Accounting Professionals Panel



Yasmin Attiah

PwC, Audit Associate

Yasmin.attiah@pwc.com

Yasmin initially started her college experience as a Biology major. However, her side job in photography led her to believe that changing her major to business would greatly benefit her photography career. Once she took

her first accounting class at Santa Monica College, she enjoyed it and officially switched to becoming an accounting major. While at SMC, Yasmin worked as a supplemental instruction leader for Accounting 1. After completing her two years at SMC, she did the START internship at PwC. This resulted in PwC extending her an offer to join them again as an audit intern the following Summer. She later transferred to California State University, Northridge to major in accounting. At CSUN, she was the director of student development for the Association of Latino Professionals For America (ALPFA). She is now a PwC associate.



Josiah Campbell

*Transamerica Financial Advisors
Registered Representative*

josiah.campbell@howmoneyworks.com

Josiah Campbell, a second-year Economics student at UCLA, is committed to earning designations as a Certified Public Accountant and Certified Financial Planner. As a financial

educator with HowMoneyWorks and Registered Representative with Transamerica Financial Advisors, Inc. Josiah is dedicated to promoting financial education and community empowerment.

With a strong accounting background and a fervent dedication to financial literacy, Josiah empowers individuals and communities with vital financial knowledge. Through HowMoneyWorks, he provides

insights into financial management, investment strategies, and wealth-building principles, striving to make financial literacy accessible to all.

Recognizing the urgent need for financial education among young adults, Josiah founded the student organization “HowMoneyWorks @ UCLA.” Through workshops, seminars, and community outreach, he equips students with the tools and knowledge to make informed financial decisions and build a secure future.



Phibi Duong

HCVT Tax Staff

phibi.duong@hcvt.com

Phibi Duong is a tax staff at HCVT, having started as an intern. She specializes in preparing returns for partnerships and corporations in real estate, entertainment, energy, and investment industries. She studied

Business Administration at Pasadena City College and transferred to UCLA, majoring in Business Economics and minoring in Accounting. Phibi has also recently earned her CPA license.



Lupita Martinez

PwC, Audit Associate

lupita.martinez@pwc.com

Lupita started at Santa Monica College in Spring 2018. While attending SMC, she worked as an accounting tutor. After completing her associate degree in Business Administration from SMC, she transferred

to LMU in Spring 2021 where she majored in Accounting. Lupita has interned with both First Republic Bank and PwC. She currently works for PwC as an Audit Associate.



Gabriel Quiñonez

Connor Group, Supervising Senior Consultant

gabriel.quinonez@connorgp.com

Gabriel, a Supervising Senior in the Technical Accounting sector at Connor Group, embarked on his professional journey as an intern at KPMG's audit practice in the summer of 2018. After earning his BS in Accounting from Loyola Marymount University in 2019, he transitioned to KPMG full-time, specializing in the Banking & Capital Markets industry. In Spring 2021, driven by a passion for complex accounting issues, startups, and the dynamic M&A landscape, he joined Connor Group, where he adeptly navigates startups from their first trial balance through their published 10-K, assists with new guidance adaptation memos, and assumes the role of assistant controller. He primarily works with companies in the biotech and retail industries.



Harman Khinda

BHI, Assistant Vice President

hkhinda@bhiusa.com

Harman Khinda is an Assistant Vice President in BHI's leveraged finance group specializing in enterprise software (SaaS) companies. Prior to his current role, Harman was a senior tax accountant at Holthouse Carlin & Van Trigt, a Los Angeles based mid-market public accounting firm. Harman is a LA native, and graduated from UCLA in 2021. Additionally, he plans to pursue a MBA in the near future. Outside of his career, Harman is focused on real estate development as an owner of several residential properties in Los Angeles.

Workshop Presenters

WORKSHOP #1

Personal Branding presented by EY



Christal Shillingford

EY, West Region Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Campus Recruiting Lead

christal.shillingford@ey.com

Christal Shillingford is the EY West Region Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Campus Recruiting Lead. She has over 10 years of Talent Management experience and a demonstrated history of success in the areas of Talent Acquisition, Diversity and Inclusion, University Relations, Talent Strategy and Human Resources. Christal graduated from California State University, Fullerton with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and concentration in Human Resources. She has actively been involved in helping SMC underrepresented minority accounting students since 2015.

WORKSHOP #2

How to Improve Academic Performance presented by USC



Arthur Alba

USC, Director, Leventhal School of Accounting Undergraduate Advising

aalba@marshall.usc.edu

Arthur Alba is a seasoned higher education professional with a proven track record in student affairs, academic advising, and program development. Holding a Master of

Arts in Higher Education and Student Affairs from New York University and a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of Southern California (USC), Arthur combines his passion for education with his background in accounting to foster inclusive, supportive, and enriching academic environments.

Currently serving as the Director of Undergraduate Programs at USC's Leventhal School of Accounting, Arthur oversees academic advising services for over 600 students, collaborating with a diverse team to promote degree programs and enhance student enrollment. His strategic initiatives in marketing, admissions process optimization, and stakeholder engagement have significantly contributed to the school's growth and the success of its students.

Arthur is a four-time winner of the USC Golden Compass Award, reflecting his dedication to student development and academic excellence. Arthur's dedication to creating pathways for student success, coupled with his strategic vision and collaborative leadership style, make him a valuable asset to the field of higher education and student affairs.

Faculty and Counselors Assisting with Conference



Prof Arek Arakelian



Prof Greg Brookins



Prof Julie Kim



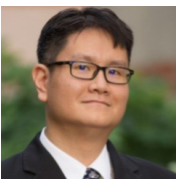
Prof Ridgway Knight



Prof Enrique Lopez



Prof Lisa Maier



Prof Ming Lu



Prof Bill Platz



Jenna Gausman



Nancy Cardenas

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