



BUILDING BRIDGES OF EXCELLENCE

**Fresno State
Student Success Summit**

COLLEGE AND CAREER SUMMIT 2025

September 13, 2025

8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Welcome

On behalf of our campus President, Dr. Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval, Interim Vice President of the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Phong Yang, the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students, Terree Stevenson, the Black Student Success Initiative Interim Program Director, Dr. Shimel Her Saychou, Interim Associate Vice President for Strategic Enrollment, Martina Grandados, and Black Student Success Initiative, Director Sade Johnson, we would like to welcome you to the 2025 Student Success College and Career Summit which will highlight student services and community resources. We are ecstatic that you decided to join us for this impactful event.

The Student Success College and Career Summit is about intentional early outreach, so take advantage of all that is in front of you as a student or parent. The journey to college starts well before high school. It is the intentional steps we take from kindergarten to senior year that propel our future in higher education.

We would personally like to thank Fresno State student services departments, faith-based partners, the represented school districts, State Center Community College District, community organizations, career schools, and volunteers for their support of this year's event.

A special thank you goes out to our Student Success College and Career Summit Sponsors:

California State University: Chancellor's Office: Faith-Based Partnerships
Fresno County Superintendent of Schools
Black Students of California United

Throughout the day, we hope every student and parent takes advantage of this opportunity to learn about resources and initiate connections. Don't forget that the Student Success College and Career Summit is all about Ask Me.

Thank you for joining the Bulldog family this weekend.

“Deep Roots”

- Recognizing Event Founder Wendy Nelson

“Auntie” Wendy Nelson served the campus of Fresno State for 20 years by supporting students toward success. Though she retired in August 2023, our community can still feel her profound commitment to early outreach and exposure to higher education. In her most recent role, Auntie Wendy served our community as the African American Initiative (AAI) campus coordinator. She was the only coordinator of her kind throughout the California State University (CSU) system. She served as the AAI Outreach Coordinator for six years, creating seminal events like Super Saturday and Super Science. Auntie Wendy’s legacy lives on as we celebrate the monumental Super Saturday event, which is the pinnacle of intentional early outreach to the Black community and the Central Valley as a whole.

The Black Student Success Initiative would like to salute our matriarch, Auntie Wendy, for her diligence and innovation in creating our annual Student Success College and Career Summit (formerly

known as Super Saturday) event, which supports hundreds of families annually in their goal to pursue higher education and career pathways.



WENDY NELSON

African American Initiative Coordinator
Fresno State African American Initiative
(2018 - 2023)

Meet the Event Organizers



SHIMEL HER SAYCHOU, ED.D., is a Hmong American woman, born in New York and raised in Long Beach, and a first-generation college student. She currently serves as the Interim Director for the Black Student Success Initiative and Director for the Southeast Asian Student Success Center. Dr. Her Saychou brings over 15 years of experience in higher education and 5 years in K-12 to her role.

Throughout her career, she has been dedicated to advancing student success and engagement by strengthening retention, persistence, and belonging. Her academic background includes a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies, a Master of Science in Educational Counseling, a Master of Arts in Education Administration with an emphasis in Higher Education, Administration, and Leadership, and a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership.



SEVEN NICOLE is the Program Coordinator for the Black Student Success Initiative. She is committed to enhancing the overall success and holistic development of Black students at Fresno State. Seven aims to identify and implement critical programming to achieve these important objectives and is dedicated to creating a safe and supportive environment where Black students can thrive.

An Ohio native with a strong background in social activism and pragmatic programming, Seven earned her Associate of Arts degree from Lorain County Community College and her Bachelor of Arts in Africana Studies from The College of Wooster.

CURTIS WITHERSPOON was born and raised in Long Beach, CA. He has three siblings, a host of nieces and nephews, a fiancée, and a son. He received his B.S. in Justice Studies from Arizona State University. He is the Administrative Support Coordinator for the Black Student Success Initiative. He recently transitioned from his old role at the Craig School of Business, where he worked for the Accountancy department. Shortly after transferring to BSSI, Curtis found that his work was impactful, as he could directly interact with and help students through BSSI's departmental programming and student support resources.





JESSE FARIAS is a proud first-generation college graduate and alumnus of Fresno State. He currently serves as the Interim Director of the Undergraduate Student Recruitment and Special Programs office, bringing more than 20 years of experience in both higher education and K-12 education.

Throughout his career, Mr. Farias has been deeply committed to expanding student access, fostering engagement, and creating educational opportunities for diverse communities. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies and a Master of Education in Cross-Cultural Teaching.

ANALIE DIAZ is a proud Central Valley Native, first generation Latina college graduate and the eldest daughter of immigrant parents. She is a two time alumna from Fresno State, earning her Spanish, B.A. in 2019 and Master's of Art in Higher Education Administration and Leadership in 2024. During her undergraduate years she served as an



Early Outreach Ambassador, which led her to having a passion in creating connections with our Central Valley communities, while also making information about higher education accessible. In her current role as Outreach Coordinator with Recruitment and Special programs, she hopes to continue making information to higher education accessible to students, parents and community members, while also providing guidance to those seeking to pursue a higher education to create successful paths for themselves and future generations.



DR. ANGELIA "ANGIE" BARFIELD is a Fresno, CA native and loves her community. Dr. Barfield has been engaged in education for more than 17 years in all levels including K-12 and University. She received her Undergraduate and Graduate degrees from Fresno Pacific University and her Doctorate in Educational Leadership

from THE Clark Atlanta University, one of the oldest HBCU's in the United States where excellence was and still is the standard. Dr. Barfield has cultivated leadership and academic excellence with hundreds of students here in Fresno and across California. She serves as the Executive Director of the Black Students of California United, a student-led nonprofit organization supporting Black students and their allies to engage in civic advocacy and social justice.

MARTIN ALVARADO is the Tour and Event Coordinator for the Office of Recruitment and Special Programs at Fresno State. A proud alumnus, Martin has dedicated over five years to his university, gaining valuable experience across various departments. His background includes three years supervising the Fresno State



Ambassador Program and a pivotal role as Customer Services Lead for the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships in 2023. Martin's comprehensive understanding of student life and university resources makes him uniquely equipped to showcase the best of Fresno State to prospective students and visitors.

In Memoriam

Fresno State Super Saturday Black Faculty and Staff Salute: McDonald worked on campus for 34 years as a leader in student access, student learning and development, and retention and graduation. She provided exceptional leadership to students, faculty, and staff during her years on campus.



MAXINE MCDONALD

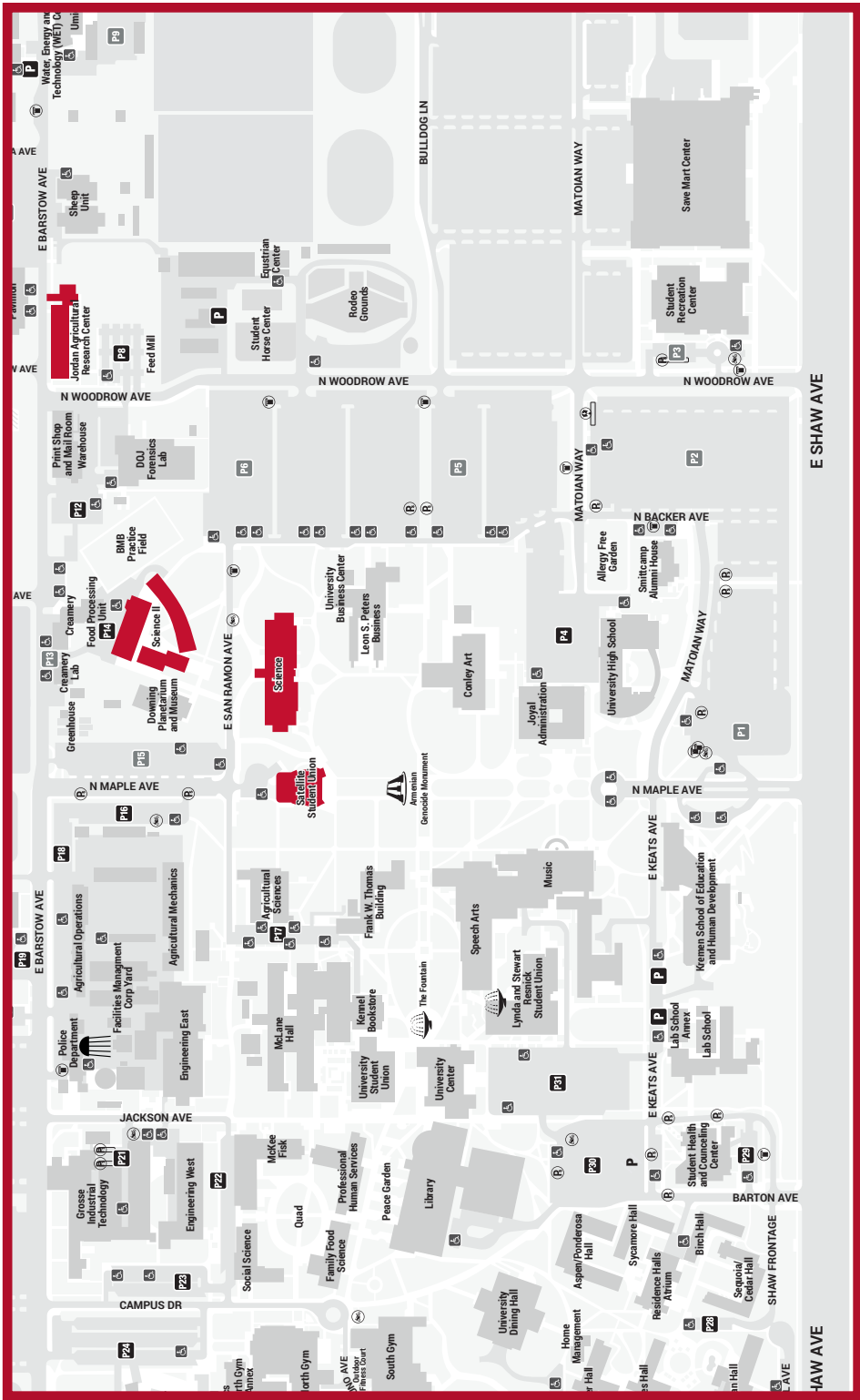
Everyone who worked with McDonald can attest to her passion, mentorship, and knowledge. Fresno State Black faculty, staff, and alumni would like to salute “Auntie Maxine” for the legacy she has left here.



DR. FRANCINE L. OPUTA

During her lifetime and in her legacy, Dr. Francine Oputa is unequivocally known as “Fresno State’s unwavering champion for diversity, equity, and inclusion,” as stated by President Jiminez-Sandoval. She worked on campus for over 30 years, leading our campus in conflict resolution, diversity, equity, inclusion, and human relations. Most recently, Dr. Oputa served as the director of the

Cross-Cultural and Gender Center. As a foundational pillar of the Fresno community, her love and impact continue to be strongly felt throughout our city. To know her was to be loved by her. The Fresno State Black Faculty, Staff, and Alumni would like to salute “Mother Mrs. Dr. Francine Oputa.”



Agenda

8:30 A.M. TO 9:30 A.M. | CHECK-IN & COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR

Satellite Student Union

Note: If checking in after 9:30 am, individuals and groups will be directed accordingly by Fresno State ambassadors or volunteers.

9:30 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M. | OPENING & GRATITUDE REMARKS

Seven Nicole

Program Coordinator, Black Student Success Initiative

Curtis Witherspoon

Administrative Support Coordinator, Black Student Success Initiative

Jourdan Williams and Jordyn Smith

Phong Yang

Interim Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management

Red Wavettes

Dr. Angelia Barfield

Executive Director, Black Students of California United

10:00 A.M. TO 10:30 A.M. | KEYNOTE

Cory Hall

Author, CEO, Coach, Fresno State Alumni, Top Dog Award Inductee

10:40 A.M. TO 11:25 A.M. | WORKSHOP/BREAKOUT SESSION A

Understanding A-G + Bulldog Bound, Smittcamp Family Honors College & Maxine McDonald Residential Scholars Program Panel, Study Techniques: Middle School, Mental Wealth & Self-Care, Mastering the Vision: How to support your student's success, Power of Identity: Knowing Yourself, Campus Tour

11:25 A.M. TO 11:35 A.M. | BREAK

11:35 A.M. TO 12:20 P.M. | WORKSHOP/BREAKOUT SESSION B

Understanding A-G + Bulldog Bound, Study Techniques: High School, Student Experience Panel: Black Student Union & National Society of Black Engineers, Campus Tour

12:30 P.M. TO 1:30 P.M. | LUNCH | RESOURCE FAIR

Satellite Student Union

1:30 P.M. TO 2:00 P.M. | CLOSING

Satellite Student Union

FRESNO STATE CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS SPOTLIGHT

Maxine McDonald Residential Scholars

National Pan-Hellenic Council

Red Wavettes

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Black Student Union

National Society of Black Engineers

Africana Studies Student Association

Black Excellence in Science and Technology

Black Christian Ministries

Keynote Speaker

Cory Hall is a former NFL safety, Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, derivatives strategy author, and private equity fund manager. Drafted 65th overall in the 1999 NFL Draft by the Cincinnati Bengals, he earned All-Pro Rookie Team honors and later played for the Atlanta Falcons (2002–2005). A four-year starter at Fresno State and 2009 Top Dog Award inductee, Cory holds a Bachelor's degree in Organizational Management and a Master's in Sports Management and Physical Education.

He is the author of *Mastering Puts and Calls: A Beginner's Course on Cash-Secured Puts and Covered Calls*, a foundational guide for new options traders seeking consistent, risk-managed income. Cory made history as the first African American head football coach in Clovis Unified's 50-year history, leading Clovis North to two Valley Championships and league titles in all three seasons. He has coached over 10 NFL draft picks and 20 Division I athletes. His collegiate coaching résumé includes roles at Wisconsin, Oregon State (Interim Head Coach), Central Michigan (Interim Head Coach), and Weber State. A former real estate developer in Atlanta, Cory now equips solopreneurs through equity investing, business procurement, and financial literacy education. He has also executive produced two feature films and one television pilot. Cory is a devoted husband, proud father, and lifelong builder of leaders across industries.



**SPECIAL THANK YOU
TO OUR SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS
- 2025 -**

Black Students of California United
Fresno County Superintendent of Schools
California State University: Chancellor's Office:
Faith-Based Partnerships

Participating in Student Services
and Community Resource Fair

Cayenne Wellness Center

Youth Leadership Institute (YLI)

African American Coalition

EECU

Clovis Community College

Fresno City College

College and Career Readiness Department- Fresno Unified

BSCU Table

Fresno State

Fresno State Center for Access to Science for All (CASA)

College of Science and Mathematics

Black Excellence in Science & Technology (B.E.S.T.)

Learning Center

Student Involvement

Central California Educational Opportunity Center (CCEOC)

Black Faculty Staff Association

Fresno State Housing

Breakout Sessions

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Study Techniques: Middle School - Unlock your Academic Powers!

Science I, room 143

- Associate Vice President for Student Affairs/
Dean of Students, Terree Stevenson
- 10:40 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.
- Join us for a hands-on session to help you study smarter, not harder. Learn practical strategies to boost focus, improve retention, manage time, and reduce stress. You'll leave with real-world tools to beat procrastination, stay motivated, and build effective routines for a successful semester.

Understanding A-G + Bulldog Bound

Science I, room 139

- Facilitated by Outreach & Recruitment
- 10:40 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.
- Learn to set yourself up for success! In this workshop, students will be introduced to A-G college admissions requirements and gain an understanding of how to meet those requirements successfully. Students will also learn about other ways to become strong college applicants, such as enrolling in honors and AP courses.

Smittcamp Family Honors College & Maxine McDonald Residential Scholars Program Student Panel

Science II, room 209

- Facilitated by Seven Nicole
- 10:40 a.m. - 11:25 a.m
- Curious about what it's like to be part of Fresno State's top academic and residential scholars programs? Join us for an exciting panel discussion featuring current students and representatives from the Smittcamp Family Honors College and the Maxine McDonald Residential Scholars Program. You'll get an inside look at the application process, program benefits, student experiences, and how these opportunities can support your academic and personal growth.

College Campus Tour: Discover Fresno State

Meet outside of the Satellite Student Union

- Facilitated by Outreach & Recruitment
- 10:40 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.
- Come explore what it's really like to be a Bulldog! Join us for a guided campus tour of Fresno State University and get a first-hand look at the spaces where students learn, live, and connect. From academic buildings and student support centers to residence halls and hidden gems across campus, this tour is your chance to experience the vibrant energy and community that make Fresno State special.

**Mastering the Vision: How to support your student's success,
Power of Identity: Knowing Yourself,
Parents Only - Satellite Student Union**

- Facilitated by Outreach & Recruitment
- 10:40 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.
- Parents, this one's just for you! In this empowering and insightful session, we'll explore how you can best support your student's academic journey while also embracing your own growth as a partner in their success. Mastering the Vision will offer strategies to help you guide your student with confidence, encouragement, and clarity. This session is all about building stronger connections, gaining perspective, and walking alongside your student with purpose and pride.

**Study Techniques: High School - Unlock your Academic Powers!
Science I, room 143**

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Student Experience Panel: Black Student Union & National Society of Black Engineers

Science II, room 209

- Facilitated by Seven Nicole
- 11:35 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.
- Join us for a student experience panel featuring members from two leading campus clubs as they share insights, stories, and advice from their time at college. Learn how getting involved outside the classroom can shape your journey, build community, and open up new opportunities.

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