

News

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Two University Presidents Join California Campus Compact Executive Board

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Hayward, CA — Two nationally-recognized university presidents have been named to the Executive Board of California Campus Compact — a coalition of leading college and universities committed to fulfilling the civic purposes of higher education in California.

The two new board members are David W. Burcham, President of Loyola Marymount University and Dr. Heather J. Knight, President of Pacific Union College. They join a distinguished group of leaders from across California representing all sectors of higher education. The board guides California Campus Compact in its mission to build the collective capacity of colleges and universities to advance civic and community engagement among college students throughout the state.

“We are so excited to have these two dedicated and accomplished leaders join our board,” notes California Campus Compact Executive Director, Elaine Ikeda, “Our board represents the different sectors of higher education, and demonstrates the power of collective leadership in transforming our institutions to improve education for our students and our democracy. We are honored to have these individuals with us.” The current Executive Board of California Campus Compact includes: Stephen A. Privett, S.J. (University of San Francisco), Judith Maxwell Greig (Notre Dame de Namur University), Dianne F. Harrison (CSU Northridge), Dorothy Leland (U.C. Merced), Devorah Lieberman (La Verne University), Leroy M. Morishita (CSU East Bay) and Richard Rush (CSU Channel Islands).

David W. Burcham – Loyola Marymount University

David W. Burcham began his career in education more than 30 years ago and was unanimously elected the 15th president of Loyola Marymount University in October 2010. President Burcham, a recognized expert in the U.S. Constitution, has been a professor of law as well as the senior vice president and dean of the Loyola Law School. He was executive vice president and provost at LMU before being named president by the Board of Trustees.

During his tenure as president, he completed a \$400 million capital fundraising drive, initiated [reforms to the core curriculum](#) and created an open and inclusive [strategic planning process](#). He was instrumental in securing approval from the city of Los Angeles for the university’s [20-year Master Plan](#), which provides for significant

growth without expanding the campus footprint. To support teaching and research, President Burcham as both provost and president has led a multi-year process that cut non-academic spending and repurposed those funds to support academic programs.

President Burcham is an ardent advocate of the Jesuit and Marymount heritage that strives to “educate the whole person” and calls on all of us to be “a person for others.” “At its heart, the LMU mission and our Catholic intellectual tradition rest on the premise that the best education - the one that sustains you for a lifetime - combines academic, social and spiritual pursuits,” He told an LMU convocation at Sacred Heart Chapel. “We see this integration best when our students step out into the world, near or far, to better know and serve the community. This approach inspires a lifelong passion for social justice.”

After graduating Loyola Law School in 1984, President Burcham clerked at the U.S. Supreme Court for Justice Byron White (1986-87) and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit for Chief Judge Ruggero J. Aldisert (1984-86), and was in private practice at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher (1987-91). A native of Los Angeles, President Burcham earned a B.A. in political science from Occidental College in 1973, and a M.A. in education administration from Cal State Long Beach in 1978. He was a teacher and administrator in the Long Beach Unified School District (1973-81). President Burcham and Chris, his wife, have two children.

Heather J. Knight – Pacific Union College

Dr. Heather J. Knight is the 21st president of Pacific Union College in Angwin, California, where she has brought great passion, energy, and insight to her role as CEO of this distinctive Seventh-day Adventist college in the liberal arts tradition. Committed to ongoing research of educational and leadership theories and approaches, Knight has personally embraced platforms or ideas that can propel Pacific Union College to the next level of excellence. One is the "Adventist Advantage" platform that she has developed, outlining seven key assets that give Adventist higher education its exceptional value and significance.

Prior to arriving at PUC, Dr. Knight served for three years as provost of Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. In that position, Dr. Knight was second officer of the university, functioning as chief operating officer, as well as chief academic officer managing the day-to-day operations of the university and providing academic and administrative leadership for Andrews University’s educational program development, curriculum planning, academic and research planning, strategic planning, financial goals and resources, enrollment and financial aid, information technology, library resources, as well as the fulfillment of the institution’s shared spiritual and community values. For 18 years before serving at Andrews University, Dr. Knight served with distinction at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California, where she was a professor of English, assistant provost, and the associate provost.

Dr. Knight received her bachelor’s degree in English from Oakwood University, magna cum laude (1982), her master’s degree in English from Loma Linda University (1984) and her Ph.D. degree in English from Stanford University (1991), specializing in Twentieth-Century American Literature. She has also completed post-graduate studies at Harvard University in the area of Management and Leadership in Education (2002). Additionally, Dr. Knight has served on numerous committees and boards, made multiple national higher education presentations, has been published in academic and popular venues, served as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts, and been the recipient of many awards, including the San Joaquin Commission on the Status of Women "Woman of Achievement" Award. As a mother of college-educated children, Dr. Knight is also a pastor’s wife, married to Dr. Norman Knight, an ordained minister.

About California Campus Compact

California Campus Compact is a coalition of leading colleges and universities that works to build the collective commitment and capacity of colleges, universities and communities throughout California to advance civic and community engagement for a healthy, just and democratic society. Through innovative programs and initiatives, grant funding, training and technical assistance, professional development and powerful research studies and publications, California Campus Compact each year invests in and champions more than 500,000 students, faculty members, administrators and community members involved in diverse and ground-breaking activities that support and expand civic and community engagement throughout California. For more information, please visit www.cacampuscompact.org.

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