

Santa Monica College Business Department

SMC ACCOUNTING DIVERSITY CONFERENCE



APRIL 19 - 21, 2021

11 A.M. - 1 P.M.

SMC.EDU/ADC

Accounting Diversity Conference

Day 1 Monday April 19, 2021

<https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/96713438786>

START	FINISH	EVENT
		INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME
11:00 a.m.	11:15 a.m.	Sal Veas <i>Business Department Chair</i>
		Dr. Kathryn Jeffery <i>SMC President and Superintendent</i>
		Barry Snell CPA <i>SMC Board of Trustee</i>
		KEYNOTE SPEAKER
11:15 a.m.	11:35 a.m.	AJ Harris <i>Los Angeles Lakers</i> <i>Vice President Of Accounting & Finance</i>
11:35 a.m.	11:45 a.m.	10 MINUTE BREAK
		ACCOUNTING PROFESSIONALS PANEL
		AJ Harris <i>LA Lakers VP Accounting & Finance</i>
		Edwin Aguilar <i>EY Audit Manager</i>
		Melissa Austrie <i>PwC Director</i>
11:45 a.m.	1:00 p.m.	Hali Booker <i>Deloitte Tax Manager</i>
		David Flores <i>RSM Tax Supervisor</i>
		Joseph Gomez <i>PwC Tax Partner</i>
		Art Rubio <i>KPMG Audit Senior Manager</i>
		Jose Sarabia <i>Deloitte Audit Partner</i>

Day 2 Tuesday April 20, 2021

<https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/97950064394>

START	FINISH	EVENT
		INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME
11:15 a.m.	11:25 a.m.	Ming Lu <i>Accounting Professor</i> Sidney Askew <i>Accounting Professor</i>
		FORMER SMC ACCOUNTING STUDENTS & YOUNG PROFESSIONALS PANEL
		Yasmin Attiah <i>CSU Northridge</i> <i>PwC Intern</i>
		Taylor Brown <i>LMU</i> <i>EY Business Consultant</i>
11:25 a.m.	12:15 p.m.	Eduardo Castillo <i>USC</i> <i>Incoming EY Audit Associate</i>
		Lupita Martinez <i>LMU</i> <i>Incoming First Republic Bank Intern & PwC Intern</i>
		Gabriel Quinonez <i>LMU</i> <i>Sr. Consultant Conner Group</i>
		George Young <i>CSU Northridge</i> <i>Incoming EY Tax Associate</i>

Agenda for Wednesday April 21, 2021

START	FINISH	EVENT
11:00 a.m.	11:45 a.m.	WORKSHOP #1 - PERSONAL BRANDING PRESENTED BY KPMG https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/93961382434 Jessica Vittas <i>KPMG</i> <i>University Recruiter</i>
11:45 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	15 MINUTE BREAK
12:00 p.m.	12:45 p.m.	WORKSHOP #2: VIRTUAL INTERVIEWING PRESENTED BY EY https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/91888843273 Ashley Condell <i>EY</i> <i>Technology Risk Senior Consultant</i> Ricardo Contreras <i>EY</i> <i>Campus Recruiter</i> Javier Figueroa <i>EY</i> <i>Technology Risk Manager</i>

Keynote Speaker



AJ Harris

Los Angeles Lakers

Vice President – Accounting and Finance & Controller

AJ Harris joins us today as the Vice President of Accounting & Finance and Controller for the Los Angeles Lakers. AJ joined the Lakers family in February 2015 as Assistant Controller in the Finance & Accounting Department. He was initially tasked with overseeing the accounting function including month-end close, accounts payable and accounts receivable processes. Now, six years later, his responsibilities also encompass the treasury, finance, FP&A, tax, and payroll functions. Mr. Harris began his career in public accounting in the Los Angeles office of the firm Pricewaterhouse Coopers working in their Entertainment, Media, Communications and Technology team. Most recently AJ Harris graduated from UCLA's Anderson School of Management Executive MBA program where he focused on finance and management.

Born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, AJ Harris was first introduced to Southern California as an undergraduate student at Claremont McKenna College. During those four years, AJ fell in love with California living, and he has now fully adopted Los Angeles as his hometown, living in the city for nearly fifteen years. Mr. Harris would classify himself as an unapologetic food enthusiast who is constantly exploring LA's diverse food landscape. Outside of work (and eating), Mr. Harris spends time volunteering with local organizations focused on mentoring young professionals and staying active in the community.

Accounting Professionals Panel



Edwin Aguilar

Ernst & Young, Audit Manager

edwin.aguilar@ey.com

Edwin Aguilar is a Manager in the Real Estate, Hospitality, and Construction practice at Ernst & Young servicing primarily publicly traded clients in the homebuilding and hospitality sectors.

At EY, Edwin helps oversee the EY West Region Latino Professional Network's (LPN) social, community outreach, and professional development events in his role as the West Region Treasurer and Project Manager. Since 2014, Edwin has led the Elements of Success Workshop, hosted by the LPN and the Black Professional Network, designed to provide students from diverse backgrounds and underrepresented schools in the Greater Los Angeles area insight into the world of professional services. Since 2014 the workshop has helped over 240 students!

Edwin was 1 out of 30 across the globe selected to participate in the EY Olympic Legacy Volunteer Program, a four month skills-based volunteer program comprised of global virtual teams where volunteers had the opportunity to work with several high-impact Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) that support entrepreneurs, education, and equity in the workforce for Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Edwin was also 1 out of 5 the Global Finalists in the inaugural year of EY's Better Begins With You competition (an internal employee recognition program that resulted in over 15K global nominations).

Outside of EY, Edwin was one of the co-founders of the Association of Latino Professional For America (ALPFA) CSU Long Beach Chapter and is currently a board member of the ALPFA Los Angeles Professional Board. Edwin has led various professional development workshops at local universities and was the opening speaker for the inaugural year of TEDx CSULB where he presented "A PAS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF STUDENT LEADERS". A presentation intended to encourage college students to get involved in on-campus student led organizations and further develop relationships between the Professors, Alumni, and Students (PAS).

Edwin attended Santa Monica College from 2006 – 2009 and transferred to California State University Long Beach (CSULB) where he received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Accountancy. Edwin is also a licensed CPA and a member of the AICPA and California Society of CPAs



Melissa Austrie

PwC, Director

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Melissa is a Director in PwC's Assurance, Innovations and Technology Practice. Melissa has over a decade of experience serving clients in the Financial Services Industry.

Melissa also served as the South West market's Black Inclusion Network leader & co-leader for several years. Melissa was born and raised on the Eastern Caribbean Island of the Commonwealth of Dominica. She is an Alumni of the City University of New York, Baruch College- Zicklin School of Business. Melissa first joined PwC as an intern in 2005 and started full time with the firm in 2007 based in the New York Metro office. In 2013, she transferred to the Los Angeles office and most recently, last September transferred to the Houston office. Melissa cherishes her time with her husband and 2 young sons, ages 5 and 3. In her protected time, her favorite pastime is reading thought provoking non-fiction books and more recently being outdoors, bike riding.



Hali Booker

Deloitte, Tax Manager

hbooker@deloitte.com

Hali attended Cornell University for her undergraduate degree and went on to pursue a Master's in Business Taxation at University of Southern California (USC). She joined Deloitte in 2011 as a Tax Consultant in Business Tax

Services where she focused on partnership tax compliance. Hali is now a Tax Manager in Operations Transformation for Tax where she supports clients that seek to optimize how they leverage people, process, data, and technology to meet their internal and external reporting obligations.



David Flores

RSM, Tax Supervisor

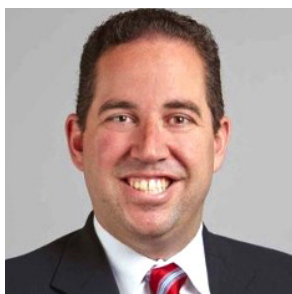
david.flores@rsmus.com

David serves as a Tax Supervisor for the Private Equity Group and State and Local Tax team in the RSM US LLP Los Angeles Office. He joined RSM in October in 2019. Prior to joining RSM, David specialized in the State and Local Tax practice for other Big 4 firms. His work is focused on Partnership taxation in private equity and middle market clients.

Prior to beginning his career in public accounting, David served over four years of active duty with the United States Army as paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division. Additionally, David served over 3 years with the California National Guard as a Human Intelligence Collector for a Military Intelligence unit.

David graduated from the University of Southern California in 2014 with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting where he served as a board member for the USC Veterans Association and continues to serve the USC Veterans Association through professional workshops and recruiting efforts.

David is a former SMC student.



Joseph Gomez

PwC, Tax Partner

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Joe is a Partner with over 20 years of experience in PwC's southern California tax practice. He has served various companies both publicly and privately held, and high net worth individuals. Joe's technical expertise is focused in the area of tax accounting methods, including the timing of income and deductions. He also consults on ASC 740, Accounting for Income Taxes.

Joe has worked with many multinational businesses and high net worth individuals, providing assistance in areas of tax planning and preparation, mergers and acquisitions, and the implementation of tax

strategies. Joe also assists clients with IRS and state taxing authority negotiation, and expansion into new markets.

A CPA licensed in California, Joe is a member of the AICPA and the California Society of CPAs. Joe oversees PwC's thought leadership for Private Companies. He enjoys spending time with his family, participating in his kids' activities, and volunteering through his church and Connections for Children where serves as a Board Member.



Art Rubio

KPMG, Audit Senior Manager

arturorubio@kpmg.com

Art graduated from Whittier College and has been working at KPMG since 2009. He specializes in Investment Management clients, Benefit Plans and Foundations. He focuses on private hedge funds and

private equity real estate.



Jose Sarabia

Deloitte, Audit Partner

jsarabia@deloitte.com

Jose is an audit Partner with Deloitte in the Financial Services group based in Los Angeles. Jose has 23 years of experience. In that time, he served some of the firm's most prominent financial services clients. Jose has served large public and private clients in the asset management and securities industries. He has extensive experience auditing investment funds, including mutual funds, business development companies, hedge funds, private equity funds, venture capital funds, real estate funds, fund of funds, as well as investment advisers and broker-dealers.

Jose graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with a Bachelor of Arts in Business-Economics, minor in Accounting. He is a Certified Public Accountant (California).

Former SMC Accounting students and Young Professionals Panel



Yasmin Attiah

PwC, Audit Intern

California State University, Northridge
yasmin.attiah.312@my.csun.edu

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 in Summer 2020. This resulted in PWC extending her an offer to join them again as an audit intern for Summer 2021. She began studying at California State University, Northridge in Fall 2020 as an accounting major and has added finance as a double major. This semester she is the director of student development for Association of Latino Professionals For America (ALPFA)—a business club for students.



Taylor Brown

Ernst & Young, Business Consultant

taylor.e.brown@ey.com

Taylor Brown is a new staff in EY's Consultant Development Program, working in their Business Consulting-Finance function (formerly PI-Finance). Prior to consulting, Taylor interned at EY in their LAUNCH programs as well as their forensics practice. Before choosing accounting, She studied pre-med, but quickly realized the bigger variety of careers that a business degree could give her. After graduating from SMC with an associate's in Business Administration, she transferred to LMU where she recently graduated with her Bachelor's in Accounting. When not working, Taylor enjoys cooking, baking, and listening to music.

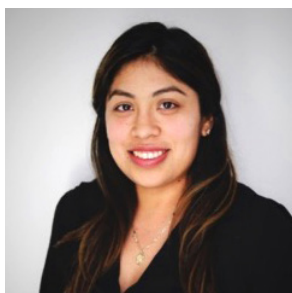


Eduardo Gutierrez Castillo

Ernst & Young, Intern & Incoming Assurance Associate

University of Southern California
legutier@usc.edu

Eduardo was born and raised in Mexico City. He has worked as an accounting assistant in Mexico, and he even owned a shop. Luis came to California in 2014 to pursue a bachelor's degree. He graduated from SMC in 2018, and currently he's finishing his last semester at USC as an accounting major. Eduardo will join EY as an assurance staff this fall 2021 and looks forward to developing a career in public accounting and other financial services. In the future he has the goal to own innovative hospitality businesses and maybe even a hotel.



Lupita Martinez

Incoming First Republic Bank Intern & PWC Audit Intern

Loyola Marymount University
lmarti98@lion.lmu.edu

Lupita started at SMC in Spring 2018. While attending SMC, she worked as an accounting tutor. Lupita recently completed her associate degree in Business Administration from SMC and transferred to LMU in Spring 2021 where she will be double majoring in Accounting and Finance. This Summer she will be interning with First Republic Bank. She also recently received a PWC 2022 Summer internship offer to work in external audit.



Gabriel Quinonez

Connor Group, Senior Consultant

gabriel.quinonez@connorgp.com

Gabriel is a Senior in the Technical Accounting sector of Connor Group. He began his professional career as a summer intern for KPMG's Audit practice during the summer of 2018, where he received a full time offer upon completion. Upon graduating from Loyola Marymount University in 2019, he joined KPMG full time where he primarily focused on the Banking & Capital Markets industry. His recent transition to Connor Group was led by his interest in the growing IPO and M&A movement.



George Young

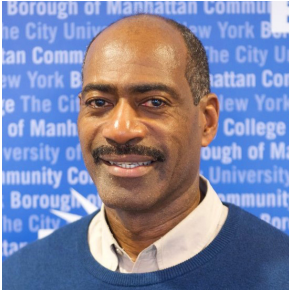
*Ernst & Young, Incoming Tax Associate
EY Intern & RSM Intern*

California State University, Northridge
george.young.622@my.csun.edu

George graduated from SMC in 2018 and transferred to California State University Northridge to major in accounting. He completed a rotational Summer internship with EY. In addition, he also did a mergers and acquisitions tax internship with RSM.

George enjoys sports and previously played college football.

Special Guest Speaker for Day 2



Professor Sidney Askew, CPA, MBA

Sidney is a Professor of Accounting at the City University of New York's Borough of Manhattan Community College. Sidney has served in several advisory roles such as President of the American Accounting Associations' Two-Year College section and

a member of Academic Executive Committee of the Association of International Certified Professional Accountants (AICPA). A member of several systems implementations, Sidney has worked in areas of public, corporate and regulatory accounting in government and private industry.

Workshop Presenters

WORKSHOP #1

Personal Branding
Presented by KPMG



Jessica Vittas

KPMG, University Recruiter

jmzuniga@kpmg.com

Jessica Vittas graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 2010 with a Bachelors in Business Admin with a concentration in Accounting. She interned and started full-time with KPMG Los Angeles in the Audit practice

where she obtained her CPA license and worked primarily in the Real Estate industry. She also worked in industry accounting and finance for about 6 years before eventually making her way back to KPMG to join the University Talent Acquisition team. Although Jessica's background is not one you typically see for a recruiter, she is incredibly grateful for the opportunities KPMG has given her as a University Recruiter.

WORKSHOP #2

Virtual Interviewing Strategies Workshop
Presented by EY



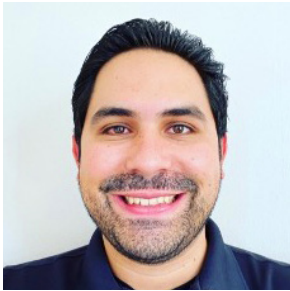
Ashley Condell

Technology Risk Senior Consultant

Ashley.E.Condell@ey.com

Ashley Condell is a Senior in the Consulting – Technology Risk practice at Ernst & Young LLP. Within her 3+ years at Ernst & Young, Ashley has worked with major clients in the Financial Services Industry, including banking

and capital markets, wealth and asset management, and insurance sectors. Ashley is a graduate of the University of Florida.



Ricardo Contreras

Ernst & Young, Campus Recruiter

Ricardo.Contreras@ey.com

Ricardo Contreras (aka Rico) was born and raised in the city of Merced, CA. He has 3 older brothers and spent many of his adolescent years helping his parents out in a family owned mechanic/tire business, which is still open to this day. Following in his brothers' footsteps of attending Jr. College and transferring to a 4-year university which included CSU Stanislaus, UC Berkeley, and Stanford; Rico pursued an associate's degree at Merced Jr College and after applying to various colleges, decided to attend UC Berkeley. After receiving an internship to work for EY's tax department during the summer of 2011, Rico decided to accept the full-time position to join EY tax after graduation. A few years later, Rico switched career paths and joined EY's campus recruiting team where he currently supports recruiting efforts in the west coast.



Javier Figueroa

Ernst & Young, Technology Risk Manager

javier.figueroa@ey.com

Javier is a Manager in the Consulting - Technology Risk practice at Ernst & Young LLP. He graduated from California State University Northridge and is a certified information systems auditor. Javier has managed a number of items including the planning and issuance of Service Organization Controls (SOC) reports, technical security reviews for a variety of platforms (i.e. SQL, Windows Server OS, Oracle, SAP, etc.), and internal controls over financial reporting integrated audits.

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