

Santa Monica College Business Department

SMC ACCOUNTING DIVERSITY CONFERENCE



FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026

Accounting Diversity Conference

Friday, April 24, 2026

START	FINISH	EVENT	ROOM
7:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	Registration	BUS 111
8:15 a.m.	8:45 a.m.	INTRODUCTION Prof Ming Lu KEYNOTE SPEAKER Okorie Ramsey	HSS 165
9:00 a.m.	9:45 a.m.	Young Accounting Professionals Panel	HSS 165
10:00 a.m.	10:15 a.m.	Group Picture	HSS 165
10:30 a.m.	11:15 a.m.	WORKSHOP #1 Building an Authentic Personal Brand For Your Job Search presented by Robert Half	HSS 165
11:30 a.m.	12:15 p.m.	Accounting Executives Panel	HSS 165
12:30 p.m.	1:15 p.m.	Networking Lunch	BUS 111
1:30 p.m.	2:15 p.m.	WORKSHOP #2 Face Your Financial Fears: How to Build Wealth and Manage Your Money	HSS 165
2:15 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	Closing session and drawing for prizes	HSS 165

Keynote Speaker



Okorie Ramsey

VP of Sarbanes/Oxley at Kaiser Permanente

110th Chairman of the AICPA

Past Chairman of the Association of International Professional Accountants

For more than three decades, Okorie Ramsey's business and financial leadership has effectuated strategic, sustainable enterprise growth and profitability at high-profile enterprises. He is certified as a CPA, CGMA, CIA, PMP, and NACD.DC.

He has deftly navigated positions of increasing scale and complexity from an early career in operational accounting management at Robert Half International to advisory services senior management at Ernst & Young, LLP, one of the four largest professional services firms in the world.

Currently Sarbanes/Oxley (SOX) VP for Kaiser Permanente's approx. \$130 billion integrated healthcare enterprise, Okorie transitioned SOX testing from internal management to an international onshore/offshore model generating substantial saving and improved performance.

Named one of the Top 100 Most Influential People in Accounting by Accounting Today, Okorie is globally recognized for accounting and financial standards leadership as a board advisor and chair. He is Past Board Chair of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Association of International Certified Professional Accountants, which combined is the world's largest and most influential accounting association. His service to various boards includes Audit & Finance Chair, Talent and Remuneration Chair, and CEO Succession Planning and Search Committee roles.

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Okorie completed a BS in Accounting from San Francisco State University and is a graduate of the Harvard Business School Executive Leadership Program, National Association of Corporate Directors Board program, and Deloitte's MADE Program for Board Directors.

Committed to the ascension of underrepresented minorities to positions of influence in the field of accounting, Okorie is California Society of CPAs' Education Foundation Board of Trustees Past President, and a past National Director of the National Association of Black Accountants, Inc.

Accounting Executives Panel



David Davis

Deloitte, Manager

davidavis@deloitte.com

David Davis, CPA, is a Manager in Deloitte's Tax Transformation Consulting practice, where he leads finance transformation and ERP implementation initiatives for large, multinational enterprises. Over his eight-year tenure at Deloitte, he has partnered with organizations across diverse industries to modernize tax operations, streamline processes, and implement scalable technology solutions.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics from University of California, Los Angeles and began his academic career at Santa Monica College. As a CPA, David brings together accounting expertise and deep technology experience to help global organizations modernize operations and execute strategy with confidence.



Nefertiti Long

*Alta Loma Enterprises,
Chief Operating Officer*

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Nefertiti Uhura Long is a native of Southern California. She currently is the Chief Operating Officer of Alta Loma Enterprises, a family office investment company. Her background is leading accounting and finance departments of midsize private companies. She has a Bachelor of Science from Cal Poly Pomona in Accounting and an MBA in Finance from Cal State University Fullerton.

Nefertiti has a passion for giving back and being involved in her community. To that end she serves on several boards in leadership roles. She is President of Alliance of Black Women Accountants. Chair of Inland Empire Community Foundation's Women's Giving Fund, and Chair of California State University of San Bernadino Foundation Board.

In addition to her time, she financially contributes to all organizations that she serves as well as various other organizations that are focused on the Inland Empire, improving the lives of women and people of color.



Alexandra Markovich

PwC, Partner

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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 7 and 11.



Gabriel Quinonez

Conner Group, Manager

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Gabriel Quinonez is a Manager in the Technical Accounting practice at Connor Group, where he advises high-growth and public companies on financial reporting, complex accounting matters, and public company readiness. He works with clients across biotechnology, life sciences, retail, and technology industries, helping them prepare financial statements, navigate revenue recognition and lease accounting, and support SEC filings such as 10-Ks and 10-Qs.

Gabriel began his academic journey at El Camino College before transferring to Loyola Marymount University, where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Accounting. As a first-generation college graduate, he understands the challenges many students face when navigating higher education and building a professional career.

He started his professional career as an intern and later Audit Associate at KPMG, serving clients in the Banking & Capital Markets industry. In 2021, he transitioned into consulting to work more closely with startups and growing companies facing complex accounting challenges.

Gabriel is passionate about mentorship and enjoys sharing his career journey with students who are exploring opportunities in accounting and finance.



Okorie L. Ramsey

*VP of Sarbanes/Oxley at
Kaiser Permanente*

110th Chairman of the AICPA

*Past Chairman of the Association
of International Professional
Accountants*

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Young Accounting Professionals Panel



Josiah Campbell

*Transamerica Financial Advisors, LLC
Investment Advisor Representative*

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Josiah Campbell is a senior Economics student at UCLA, a Certified Financial Educator (CFEd®), and President of Bruin Financial Literacy, a student-led organization dedicated to expanding access to financial education at UCLA and surrounding communities. He is committed to pursuing professional designations as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Certified Financial Planner (CFP®).

Josiah is an Investment Advisor Representative with Transamerica Financial Advisors, where he works at the intersection of financial education and applied financial planning. With a strong foundation in accounting and personal finance, he equips students and families with practical frameworks for financial management, investment fundamentals, and long-term wealth-building strategies.



Eduardo Gutierrez Castillo

EY, Senior Associate

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Eduardo was born and raised in Mexico City. He has worked as an accounting assistant in Mexico, and he even owned a candy shop. Luis came to California in 2014 to pursue a bachelor's degree. He graduated from SMC and then transferred to USC to major in accounting. Today, Eduardo works in Strategy and Transactions at EY. In the future, he has the goal to own innovative hospitality businesses and maybe even a hotel.



Diego Enriquez

EY, Associate

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Diego Enriquez is a current staff at EY. His educational background started at Los Angeles Valley College, after which he transferred to UCLA, where he graduated with a Business Economics degree. Over the summer going into his senior year, he completed an internship at EY where he focused on real estate taxes and got a good look into what public accounting was. During his last two quarters at UCLA, he spent six months at a local tax accounting firm called ASA Accounting, which focused on individual and small business taxes.

Diego recently started full time at EY and is part of the financial services organizations with Wealth and Asset Management clients being his focus. He is currently working on obtaining his CPA license.



Doris Huang

Deloitte, Associate

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Doris was born and raised in Taiwan and earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Feng Chia University. She began her academic journey in the United States at Santa Monica College before completing her Master of Accounting at USC. She is currently a first-year Tax Associate in Deloitte's Los Angeles office, where she works in the Business Tax Services practice. Doris looks forward to sharing her experiences and insights with everyone.



Jake Kagnoff

KPMG, Associate

joshpatel@netflix.com

Jake Kagnoff is a Tax Associate based in the Los Angeles office of KPMG. He earned his bachelor's degree from UCLA, where he took his accounting classes. Outside of his role at KPMG, Jake is also a dedicated tennis coach, sharing his passion for the sport and helping players develop their skills.



Tiffany Le

KPMG, Associate

tiffanyle@kpmg.com

Tiffany is a Financial Due Diligence Associate at KPMG within the firm's Advisory practice, based in Southern California. She works primarily with private equity clients across a range of industries, supporting both buy-side and sell-side transactions. Tiffany earned her Bachelor of Arts in Business Economics with a minor in Accounting from University of California, Los Angeles. She obtained her CPA license shortly after graduation.

Workshop Presenters

WORKSHOP #1

Building an Authentic Personal Brand For Your Job Search by Robert Half



Kim Garstein

*Robert Half,
Senior Vice President*

kim.garstein@roberthalf.com

Kim Garstein is the Senior Vice President for Robert Half in West Los Angeles. Kim has helped thousands of candidates secure both temporary and full-time roles over the last 25 years. She is a workplace expert in the areas of administrative, HR and accounting placements and a media spokesperson for Robert Half.

WORKSHOP #2

Face Your Financial Fears: How to Build Wealth and Manage Your Money



Jake Cousineau

Author and Educator

jake@htapersonalfinance.com

Jake Cousineau is an author and educator from Los Angeles, California. He has launched personal finance programs at two schools, advocates for financial literacy legislation, and his years in the classroom inspired him to write his first commercially successful book, *How to Adult: Personal Finance for the Real World*, which has sold over 50,000 copies. He also has a new book, *Face Your Financial Fears: The Simple Guide to Fixing Your Relationship with Money*, that was released in October 2025.

Faculty Assisting with Conference



Prof Greg Brookins



Prof Aileen Huang



Prof Ridgway Knight



Prof Enrique Lopez



Prof Ming Lu



Prof Lisa Maier



Prof Dana Nasser



Prof Tom Paccioretti



Prof Bill Platz

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