



SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY - SCHOOL OF EDUCATION & COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY



Santa Clara University Launches EdD in Social Justice Leadership

To further its commitment to social justice and empower the next generation, Santa Clara University's School of Education and Counseling Psychology's [Doctor of Education \(EdD\) in Social Justice Leadership program](#) seeks to attract students who desire executive-level leadership positions in a wide variety of mission-driven organizations. The EdD program that was recently approved by the Board of Trustees expands the school's Educational Leadership program and furthers its ability to prepare mission-driven professionals with doctoral-level preparation to lead and serve the Bay Area's educational and community-based organizations. An inaugural cohort of 20 students will begin the three-year degree program in September 2021.

The program is uniquely centered around mission and values-driven leadership for complex, contemporary, and social change organizations—schools, colleges, and social impact organizations. It aims to prepare leaders to be the catalyst to address complex organizations and pressing social issues to advocate for a more humane, just, and sustainable world. The EdD in Social Justice Leadership is designed to serve professionals who are in the following industries, including Catholic organizations:

- **Higher Education:** Individuals in leadership roles in community colleges and individuals in administration or leadership positions at colleges or universities.
- **PreK-12 Education:** Individuals working in educational settings within schools, school districts, or other community settings with an educational change emphasis.
- **Social Impact:** Individuals who work in the nonprofit, foundation, social and community organizations, or other settings. Early and mid-career professionals who are in the social impact sector.

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The program is designed to cultivate the knowledge, skills and dispositions that graduates will need to lead organizations and teams through a collaborative, inquiry- and strategy-oriented servant leadership model. Graduates are prepared to lead organizations through the complex challenges faced by educational and social impact organizations in our world today.

The recently approved EdD program will create doctoral studies opportunities for numerous education and community-driven professionals in the Bay Area, including graduates from the school's Administrative Services Credential and the MA in Educational Leadership programs. "We are excited to welcome the inaugural EdD cohort this summer. This program will cultivate world-class leaders in education who will make an impact in Silicon Valley and beyond," says Dean Sabrina Zirkel, PhD. "Our exceptional faculty have developed a well-balanced curriculum to support educational leaders who desire relevant skills, expertise, and management abilities to navigate the demands of 21st-century organizations," adds Zirkel.

Associate Professor Pedro Nava, PhD, will serve as director of the EdD in Social Justice Leadership program in addition to his current supervision of the MA in Educational Leadership degree. Dr. Nava, an expert in engaging and supporting Latinx parent and community leadership, is enthusiastic about supporting emerging leaders with a passion for using leadership to further social justice and equity in our schools, colleges, and social impact organizations. "I am excited about the advancement opportunities that this degree will foster for Bay Area professionals, especially those who desire a program that encourages reflection, growth, and the application of new skills," says Nava.

[Request information](#) from the admissions team to stay informed about this program or join us at an [upcoming event](#).

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