

## **Biographies of Presenters**

### **UC Inspires: Californians for All College Corps**

#### **Josh Fryday**

As a member of the Governor Gavin Newsom's Cabinet, Josh Fryday leads [California Volunteers](#) and the newly created Governor's Office of Service and Community Engagement. He also serves in a leadership position with the California Governor's Council for Career Education which works to empower all Californians – youth and adult learners alike – to discover, prepare for, and connect to careers.

Fryday led the COVID-19 Task Force to support food insecure communities and food banks across the state. Since appointed, California Volunteers has created the largest service force in the country—including the nation's first statewide California Climate Action Corps, College Corps, and Youth Service Corps. Fryday is the former Mayor of Novato, his hometown. He also served as President of Golden State Opportunity (GSO), leading the expansion and implementation of the California Earned Income Tax Credit. Prior to GSO, he served as Chief Operating Officer for NextGen Climate, a leading national organization focused on climate change.

Fryday served in the military as an Officer in the United States Navy (2009-2013) as a member of the Judge Advocate General's Corps. He worked on the Military Commissions in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. He also served in Japan, where he augmented the Navy's 7th Fleet's Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief efforts during Operation Tomodachi following the 2011 earthquake, tsunami, and Fukushima nuclear disaster. Fryday received his law degree from UC Berkeley School of Law and clerked in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California, as well as the San Francisco District Attorney's Office for then-District Attorney Kamala Harris.

He is a founding Board Member of Amazon Frontlines and an emeritus board chair for Demos, a national think-tank focused on issues of economic, racial, and political inequality. He is married to Mollye Fryday, an educator, and they have three energetic young boys, Shay, Calvin and Tam.

#### **Sarahi Castaneda**

Castaneda is a current UC Merced Student and College Corps Alumna from 2022-2024. Sarahi served with Community Initiatives for Collective Impact and Merced Irrigation District. She is currently a Student Ambassador for Experiential Living, working toward her B.S. in Environmental Science. Her anticipated graduation date is May 2025.

She recently was featured in an NPR article about community service:

[\*\*California needs more young people in community service, leaders say. Here's how Valley college students are stepping up\*\*](#)

Castaneda has traveled to Madera and the unincorporated town of Snelling for her fellowship. When she was a little girl in Ceres, she experienced food insecurity and witnessed the pressures that families endure from lack of affordable childcare and little quality time spent together. But

her experiences in the College Corps program have led her to connect and learn from the community in areas where she otherwise might not.

Castaneda says that because UC Merced is on unincorporated land on the northern outskirts of the city, people in the county think that the campus keeps students isolated, but the College Corps program allows them to get involved with the community.

“I always dreamed about bettering the communities that I came from and increasing the resources that they do have,” Castaneda said. And she has.

### **DJuane "DJ" Nunley**

DJ is currently participating in his 3rd year in College Corps (1 year at UC Berkeley, and 2 years at his Community College)

- Focus Area: K-12 Education
- Community Partner: Underground Scholars
- Major: Social Welfare

At 38 years old, DJ is a nontraditional student pursuing medical school and a Ph.D. with the goal of opening a private practice in California's Coachella Valley to help troubled children. For two decades, he chased a dream of becoming a professional singer and entertainer, but the COVID-19 pandemic brought his progress to a halt, leading to a profound realization about his true purpose. DJ discovered that his greatest talent lies in listening to and uplifting others, especially youth in need of guidance. He is committed to becoming a mentor and positive force in his community, empowering the next generation to thrive. DJ firmly believes that by nurturing young people, we can create meaningful change in the world.