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Junius J. Gonzales Appointed CSU's Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs

(July 31, 2025)— California State University (CSU) Chancellor Mildred García has appointed Junius J. Gonzales as vice chancellor of Academic Affairs. His appointment is effective October 6, 2025, following the CSU Board of Trustees' September 2025 meeting.

"Dr. Gonzales brings with him impeccable credentials and an extraordinary breadth and depth of experience that are well aligned with the CSU's core values," García said. "Throughout his career, he has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to inclusive excellence and a leadership style founded on integrity, flexibility and authentic collaboration, all of which will contribute powerfully to our mission and the students we are so honored to serve."

Gonzales' career spans nearly 35 years, the majority of which have been in academia. For the past 14 years he has led academic affairs divisions at nationally recognized institutions. Most recently, he has been provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs at Montclair State University (MSU) in New Jersey, a Hispanic Serving Institution recognized for social mobility. He has also served as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at New York Institute of Technology; senior vice president for Academic Affairs for the University of North Carolina (UNC) system, where he also served as interim president; and provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP).

"I am humbled to be named the CSU's vice chancellor for Academic Affairs. I know so deeply the power of education and have dedicated much of my career to furthering the impact of public higher education for individuals and communities," Gonzales said. "Joining the country's largest four-year public university system is the ultimate opportunity to contribute to a profound public good. I look forward to partnering with system and campus administrators, faculty and staff to achieve the CSU's vision of providing a new and vital education for 21st-century students."

As a chief academic officer, Gonzales has prioritized bridging academic, research, policy and practice to position institutions for meaningful and transformational impact. At MSU, he has led the development of new academic programs and services with a focus on enhancing the learning experience and positioning students for positive post-graduation outcomes. While at NYIT, he connected and integrated student success and faculty success, leading to increased

graduation and retention rates. Further, at UNC and UTEP he led cross-unit teams for organizational change.

Earlier in his academic career, Gonzales was the founding dean of the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences and executive director of the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute at the University of South Florida (USF). Widely respected for his extensive and impactful research and scholarship, he has held research and teaching positions at UNC, UTEP, USF, George Washington University and Georgetown University.

A psychiatrist by training, Gonzales has also held high-level leadership positions in the federal government and the private sector. He has served as director of the National Institute of Mental Health's Division of Services and Interventional Research, and as a principal and scientist in the Health Division of Abt Associates (now Abt Global), a top global research firm.

A first-generation college student, Gonzales earned his bachelor's degree from Brown University, his M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, and his MBA from Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland. He completed his medical residency at Massachusetts General Hospital and a post-doctoral fellowship at the National Institute of Mental Health.

As vice chancellor, Gonzales will serve as the chief academic officer for the CSU system and provide comprehensive operational leadership, strategy, compliance, oversight and direction for the Academic Affairs divisions across the system's universities. He will serve as a key policy advisor to the chancellor and as a vital partner to campus presidents, faculty, staff and other leaders throughout the system. He will report directly to the chancellor.

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About the California State University

The [California State University](#) is the nation's largest four-year public university system, providing transformational opportunities for upward mobility to more than 460,000 students from all socioeconomic backgrounds. More than half of CSU students are from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds, and more than one-quarter of undergraduates are first-generation college students. Because the CSU's 22 universities provide a high-quality education at an incredible value, they are rated among the best in the nation for promoting social mobility in [national college rankings](#) from U.S. News & World Report, the Wall Street Journal and Washington Monthly. The CSU powers California and the nation, sending over 125,000 career-ready graduates into the workforce each year. In fact, one in every 20 Americans holding a college degree earned it at the CSU. Connect with and learn more about the CSU in the [CSU newsroom](#).*

** Transition to 22 universities in progress (Cal Poly and Cal Maritime integrating)—official fall 2026.*