



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

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The County of Yolo Welcomes a Changemaker in Dr. Tico Zendejas

(Woodland, CA) - The County of Yolo is proud to announce the appointment of Dr. Tico Zendejas as its new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Manager. Dr. Zendejas's arrival marks a significant milestone in the County's dedication to incorporating DEI principles within both the government and the community. With this appointment, Yolo County aims to foster a more equitable and supportive environment where everyone feels seen and heard.

As the manager of Yolo County's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Dr. Zendejas will serve as a change agent, advisor, and strategic partner to the County's leadership team. His role is critical in cultivating a culture of achievement and recognition at all levels, ensuring that every member of the County is valued and included. Among a competitive pool of applicants, Dr. Zendejas stood out due to his exceptional analytical, communication, and presentation skills. Moreover, his track record of building strong relationships within organizations and with community partners to advance DEI initiatives is seen as an invaluable asset to our dynamic community.

"Dr. Zendejas's appointment represents the County's unwavering commitment to integrating DEI initiatives and programs across our structure, emphasizing inclusivity and engagement for all members of our community," said County Administrative Officer Gerardo Pinedo. "His experience and expertise in this field will greatly benefit our programs, policies, and projects."

Prior to joining Yolo County, Dr. Zendejas served as the Executive Director of R.I.S.E. Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life and opportunities for self-sufficiency in rural communities of Yolo County. Through his leadership and dedication to the rural communities, he successfully facilitated collaborations to construct the Capay Valley Health and Community Center. This upcoming center will provide improved access to healthcare and resources for residents of Esparto-Capay Valley, exemplifying the transformative changes Dr. Zendejas has championed in local systems and structures to create a more inclusive environment for staff and individuals seeking public services.

In addition to his role as Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Manager, Dr. Zendejas currently serves on the Yolo County Office of Education Board of Trustees, where he advocates for youth development. He holds a Doctorate Degree in Educational Leadership from the University of California, Davis, a Master of Arts in Education and Training, and a bachelor's degree in Human Services Management. Known for his expertise in developing and implementing new programs, Dr. Zendejas's rich cultural experiences and eagerness to learn from diverse backgrounds have shaped his global perspective on inclusion, acceptance, respect, and change.

"I am deeply passionate about justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion practices in government settings and communities," said Dr. Zendejas. "I eagerly anticipate working with all County staff to create and enhance safe and brave spaces for individuals, where differences are respected, and a strong sense of belonging can thrive."

The County of Yolo is excited to embark on this new chapter under Dr. Zendejas's leadership. With his guidance, the County looks forward to achieving greater diversity, equity, and inclusion, leading to a more vibrant and harmonious community where every voice matters.

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