

SAN DIEGO CITY COLLEGE

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Ricky Shabazz, Ed.D.
President
San Diego City College

Dr. Ricky Shabazz is a passionate, student-centered leader with over 25 years of executive experience dedicated to advancing academic achievement, promoting equity and diversity, and expanding access to higher education. As a first-generation college graduate and lifelong learner, Dr. Shabazz is deeply committed to the mission of community colleges. His expertise in enrollment management and student success strategies has contributed to innovative policies, collaborative partnerships, and transformative student experiences.

Currently, Dr. Shabazz serves as the president of San Diego City College, one of the most dynamic and socially engaged community colleges in the nation. Located in San Diego, the eighth-largest city in the United States, City College has a distinguished history as the fifth-oldest community college in California. Under Dr. Shabazz's leadership, the college continues to advance student success, increase completion rates, and promote equity, particularly for historically marginalized populations. His strategic approach fosters a culture of academic excellence, ensuring that students receive personalized support to achieve their educational and career goals.

Prior to his presidency at City College, Dr. Shabazz played a pivotal role in transforming student services at San Bernardino Valley College and El Camino College Compton Center. As vice president of Student Services at Valley College, he established one of California's first Dreamer's Resource Centers, creating a safe and supportive space for undocumented students. He also oversaw a record-breaking graduating class, further solidifying his reputation as a leader in student success initiatives. At Compton Center, where he served as dean, he doubled enrollment to 14,000 students and significantly increased graduation and transfer rates.

Dr. Shabazz holds an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and a master's degree in Educational Administration from California State University, San Bernardino. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of California, Davis, where he developed a passion for increasing college access for underrepresented students. He is also a Lakin Fellow, a graduate of the Los Angeles Community College District President's Academy, and an alumnus of the Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA) Mentorship and Admin 101 programs.

A highly respected leader in the San Diego region, Dr. Shabazz was named one of the Top 50 Black Leaders of Influence by the San Diego Business Journal. He serves on multiple boards, including A2MEND, the Museum of Us, the American Association of Community Colleges Commission on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the County of San Diego Black Chamber of Commerce, and the African American California Community College Trustees and Administrators Caucus.

Dr. Shabazz has received numerous awards and is a highly sought-after speaker at conferences nationwide. Beyond his professional achievements, he is a devoted husband and father who finds fulfillment mentoring future leaders and enjoys fishing in his free time.