

Nick Mata
Assistant Superintendent/ Vice President of Student Services
Palomar College

Nick Mata is the Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Student Services at Palomar College, where he provides strategic leadership for more than twenty departments serving 20,000 students. He oversees a \$30 million portfolio and leads initiatives that strengthen student engagement, enrollment management, and holistic student support. With over two decades of experience in higher education, Nick has demonstrated a deep commitment to fostering inclusive, student-centered environments that promote belonging and achievement.

Prior to joining Palomar College, Nick served in multiple leadership roles at Santa Monica College, including Dean of Special Programs, Interim Dean of Counseling, and Interim Dean of Student Life. While at SMC, he partnered with colleagues to establish the DREAM Program for undocumented students and the RISING Program for justice impacted students and participated in the development of the college's Student Equity Center. His earlier work includes leadership positions at Los Angeles Southwest College, Pasadena City College, San Diego Miramar College, and the University of California, San Diego.

Nick's leadership philosophy is grounded in relationship building, collaboration, collegiality, equity and student success. He has led large-scale organizational teams, over 250 faculty, classified professionals, and managers, through data-informed planning, fiscal stewardship, and collaborative governance.

Nick holds a Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration/Student Affairs from the University of Missouri–Kansas City and a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Missouri–Columbia.