



Dr. Jack S. Kahn, Biography

Dr. Jack Kahn has been a transformative and inspirational leader in academia for over 25 years. Throughout his life he has been engaged in collaborative and innovative work towards social justice and equity with a resolute commitment to serving diverse communities. His collaborations have led to his being awarded special recognitions as a leader in community colleges as well as for his supportive work with the United States Marines.

Dr. Kahn was the first person in his family to pursue a four-year college degree. He went to Arizona State University where he majored in psychology and minored in philosophy and sociology. While there, he was very active in social justice activities including the anti-apartheid movement and support of the Western Shoshoni Native Americans of Nevada.

He later attended San José State University to pursue a master's degree in Marriage and Family Counseling, and the State University of New York at Buffalo for a PhD in Counseling Psychology. During his doctoral studies he published his first peer-reviewed article on the topic of multicultural identity and was chosen to be the first doctoral intern to serve the Penobscot Community Mental Health Center to support the Wabanaki Native American community.

Following his graduate work, he taught as a part-time instructor before landing his first full-time academic position at a small liberal arts college outside of Boston, Massachusetts. He was a very active faculty member on the Diversity Committee and the Women and Gender Studies Committee. He spent time as department chair, developing his research plan and publishing several articles on psychological assessment, gender identity, social justice, as well as a textbook on masculinities from a feminist perspective. He also developed several support programs to assist students, including a supplemental instruction program, advanced research seminar, and an applied lab course in community psychology partnering with a violence prevention program in Dorchester, Massachusetts.

Dr. Kahn's administrative leadership began about eleven years ago when he was offered a position to lead a PhD program through an accreditation cycle. During this period, in addition to securing accreditation continuity, he worked with staff to develop a Spanish-speaking practicum opportunity that allowed Spanish speakers to receive counseling in their primary language.

In the last several years, Dr. Kahn served as the Dean for Social and Behavioral Sciences and then the Assistant Superintendent/ Vice President of Instruction at Palomar College. In these roles, he worked with his teams to help expand the impact of LatinX/Hispanic outreach, formed numerous community and industry partnerships, began Middle College programs, launched Guided Pathways, and several other initiatives. One of his most innovative projects has been working with colleagues at Camp Pendleton and Marine University to create and expand an apprenticeship to convert Marine training to Community College curriculum.

Most recently, Dr. Kahn served as the Interim Superintendent/President for Palomar College. In this role, he oversaw more than 1,600 employees, a student population of 25,000 and an annual budget of \$568 million. He led the college through a fiscal crisis, steered the Emergency Operations Center team through the COVID pandemic, worked with leaders in finance to save taxpayers \$21 million by refinancing Prop M bonds, partnered with the Accreditation Team to prepare for an accreditation visit, and assisted in transitioning a new shared governance structure. He also was very active in working with colleagues to develop a robust antiracist plan for the institution which has resulted in several action-items, including an antiracist board policy, new mission and values statement, numerous pedagogical trainings, and new structural support for diverse faculty, staff, and students.

Dr. Kahn has returned to his Assistant Superintendent/ Vice President of Instruction role and has taken on new projects that align with his commitment to students, staff, and faculty. In his spare time, he enjoys listening to and recording music, gardening, cooking, and spending time with his wife Jackie, two dogs and a cat.