



Greetings fellow CCCAOE members and Career Education partners. As my first official communication as your President, it is my pleasure to invite you to attend, present and/or volunteer at our California Community College Association for Occupational Education Fall 2019 Conference. I encourage you to plan to arrive early for the pre-conferences and possibly extend your stay to relax and experience the Desert.

My 12 years of membership with CCCAOE and attending our conferences has helped me to both focus and expand my knowledge of career education. Information I obtained at CCCAOE conferences prepared me well through all the initiatives, reorganizations and Ed Code revisions which have occurred over

the past 12 years.

1. **ATTEND:** I would like to formally invite you to register and attend YOUR conference. By attending YOUR conference you will increase your skills and knowledge in the three key activities of YOUR organization.
 - The first key activity is Networking. Seek conversations with peers, experts and sponsors which create opportunities for "*Making Every Connection Work.*"
 - Second, take advantage of the Professional Development opportunities offered before, during and after the conference. Whether it's principles of leadership, digitizing learning or mastering tools for fostering relationships, you'll find what you need.
 - Third, become an Advocacy Champion. Arm yourself with knowledge, so you can influence policy and community engagement. Participate in our sessions where you will garner the necessary skills to become your College's advocate for Career Education both on and off your campus.

2. Network: Our conferences are made great through the professionalism, creativity and engagement of our presenters and attendees. Please consider sharing your thoughts, ideas, challenges, opportunities and successes with fellow members at our social events, during the Lean-ins or between sessions. Meet new people. Sit with someone you do not know. Introduce yourself to as many fellow attendees as possible. Networking can enlighten you, inspire you and possibly change your life.

3. VOLUNTEER: During the conference we will need Conference Session Hosts to introduce presenters, assist with starting sessions and providing feedback to the staff. Requests for session hosts will go out to the general membership for volunteers as soon as the sessions are announced.

For this upcoming conference, I encourage you to attend for the first time or for the umpteenth time to Volunteer to serve as a host, or simply engage with your peers at every opportunity. It is each of you who make this organization great and I look forward to seeing you at YOUR Conference in October!

John A. Jaramillo
President, CCCAOE