Soledad O’Brien brings a fresh perspective on contemporary issues in order to help foster organizational change. Over her career, Ms. O’Brien has studied the role of the media in politics and its responsibility to viewers. She strives to promote authentic conversations about uncomfortable issues, pushing for direct and truthful answers to tough questions, including issues of minority access to higher education. An eloquent and powerful storyteller, she is comfortable creating a space for respectful disagreements and challenges to beliefs.

KEYNOTE AND GENERAL SESSION SPEAKERS

Soledad O’Brien
Award-winning Journalist, Speaker, Author and Philanthropist, and Host of the Sunday morning syndicated political show, “Matter of Fact”

Timothy White
Chancellor, California State University

Dr. Timothy P. White is chancellor of the California State University, one of the largest and most diverse systems of higher education in the United States. As chancellor, Dr. White leads a university of 23 campuses and a global community of 479,000 students, 50,000 faculty and staff and more than 3.3 million alumni. As the seventh chancellor to lead the CSU, he is a champion of inclusive excellence and student success, and a proponent of bringing individualized education to scale through the expansion of proven best practices. The CSU is also positioned as a state and national leader in promoting and protecting federal Title IX rights, environmental sustainability and diversity, which is reflected in the CSU’s diverse campus leadership. Dr. White also leads the CSU as it embarks on an ambitious systemwide plan – Graduation Initiative 2025 – to increase graduation rates, decrease time to degree and eliminate achievement gaps for all students by recruiting more faculty, hiring more advisors and student-support staff, providing new tools and adding thousands of more classes over the next decade. Prior to joining the CSU, Dr. White held senior academic and administrative positions at the University of Michigan, Oregon State University, University of Idaho, and at University of California campuses in Berkeley and Riverside. He deeply believes in and is a product of California’s Master Plan for Higher Education, having pursued his higher education from Diablo Valley Community College, Fresno State, California State University, East Bay and the University of California, Berkeley. Like many CSU students and alumni, he was the first in his family to attend college and earn a degree.
Bruce Kimbrell began his Disney career as a skipper on the world-famous Jungle Cruise at the Disneyland Resort in Anaheim before embarking on the Disneyland Management Training Program. He served Disneyland in a variety of leadership roles, including positions in food and beverage operations, merchandise, human resources, marketing and guest services. Mr. Kimbrell is the author of “Walt Disney and You,” an internal training program designed to re-connect current Disney cast members with the ideals and founding principles of Walt Disney. The primary video used in this presentation won the U.S. Corporate Recognition Award for the Walt Disney Company in 2004 and has been presented worldwide. A graduate of Brigham Young University, he earned a degree in public relations and communication. He is pursuing a credential for learning and performance professionals (CPLP) offered by the American Society for Training and Development (ASTD).

Barbara Boxer, an outspoken advocate of freedom of speech and public debate and a strong voice for environmental issues, will talk to us about her perspectives and share insights from her book, “The Art of Tough: Fearlessly Facing Politics and Life.”

Sarita Maybin is an international speaker, communication expert and author whose audiences have fun learning how to stay positive, constructively confront tough communication situations and work together better. Since 1993, Ms. Maybin has spoken in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Jamaica, Canada, England, Asia, Iceland, and on the prestigious TEDx stage. She is a former university Dean of Students with a Master’s degree in Counseling, a Toastmasters Humorous Speech Contest winner and a Past President of the National Speakers Association, San Diego chapter. She has also been interviewed by the media about her book “If You Can’t Say Something Nice, What DO You Say?”