



MENTORING MATTERS PANEL EVENT

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ADVISING COMMUNITIES OF EXCELLENCE
MENTORING PROGRAM | UCLA

FEBRUARY 11, 2025

3:00PM - 4:00PM

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Moderated by Alina Avila



Alina Avila is the Coordinator of Advising Curricular Initiatives and Academic Advisor with the Center for Academic Advising in the College. She obtained her first student affairs position at UC Santa Barbara in 2008 and never looked back. It has been both challenging and rewarding and it has been her home in higher education. Spending 10 years in the UCLA Samueli School of Engineering really challenged her and provided a safe and supportive environment with an incredible team to grow through a range of experiences. That role also brought her to ACE (Advising Communities of Excellence: Professional Development Program). Her experiences in ACE changed how she viewed her value and voice in various spaces across the institution and inspired her to turn the skills she has honed, such as advocating for students to faculty and leadership, towards amplifying staff voices. In her current role, she is able to work more directly with ACE to shift the campus culture built on institutional hierarchies. She wishes to help UCLA create a model for other universities with regard to including staff as valuable partners and experts in their roles and not simply for their support and execution of tasks.

Also, she loves dogs and spam musubi.

Panelists



**Andrew
Erman**



**Amanda
Glover**



**Maria Jose
Hidalgo**



**Aynsley
Lemon**





Andrew Erman worked in the UCLA Health System for 30 years, retiring in 2023 from the position of Director of Speech Pathology. He is grateful beyond words to have had the opportunity to serve patients and collaborate with caring and talented colleagues. Together, they did their best to ease patient suffering and improve their quality of life. Working at UCLA was challenging, growth promoting, and always interesting! His career at UCLA was a journey of the heart.



Amanda Glover is an Undergraduate Advisor in the department of Physics and Astronomy. She graduated from UC Santa Barbara with a BA in Sociology with a Black Studies minor. Her career in student affairs spans multiple areas, such as housing & residential services, graduate admissions, and now, academic advising! She is deeply passionate about diversity, equity, and inclusion, student wellness, and fostering safe and welcoming communities for students.



Maria José (MJ) Hidalgo is a first-generation Latina and two-time alumna of Mount Saint Mary's University, Los Angeles, with an M.S. in Counseling Psychology and a B.A. in Psychology. As Assistant Director at the UCLA Career Center, she supports Humanities and Social Science students, guiding them to grow, build confidence, and achieve career success. MJ reminds students that "self-awareness is the greatest strength in achieving career fulfillment."



Aynsley Lemon has had the pleasure of being a mentee in ACE and working with UCLA Summer Sessions alongside her incredible colleagues and Student Affairs team for the past five years. She feels grateful for her role in providing students with access to an inspiring summer of personal growth and academic knowledge. During her college years at UCSB, Aynsley served as a Peer Mentor, an Orientation Leader, and a Health & Wellness Advocate Coordinator. These experiences sparked her strong interest in student services, program development, and workshop coordination. Aynsley looks forward to applying to advance her educational journey and leadership skills from a B.A. in Sociology and Education to an M.Ed. in Student Affairs for Fall 2026, hopefully at UCLA. She is excited to share more about her experiences and can't wait to serve as a mentor for ACE next cycle!