



Empowering Students & Transforming Lives

Convocation 2025

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 2025

Woodland Community College
Performing Arts & Culinary Center
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

CONVOCATION 2025



Welcome to the 2025 Woodland Community College Convocation! Today, we come together to renew our shared purpose and build a bold agenda aimed at advancing student outcomes and enhancing socioeconomic mobility. This Convocation is happening at a pivotal moment, when our communities need us most. Our theme, “*Empowering Students & Transforming Lives*” focuses on the important role we play in building belonging, alleviating poverty, and giving hope to often marginalized communities. By aligning our talents and passion, we can create impactful, forward-thinking strategies that will shape a brighter future for our students and the communities.

Lizette Navarette, President of Woodland Community College

8:30 – 8:50 AM

Welcome & President’s Update

8:50 – 9:00 AM

Chancellor’s Message

9:00 – 10:00 AM

Keynote Address



THE FUTURE WAS YESTERDAY: HIGHER EDUCATION'S GREAT UPHEAVAL & THE NEEDS OF THE NEW LEARNER

Scott Van Pelt, *Co-author of The Great Upheaval, and Director of Research and Faculty Affairs at the University of Pennsylvania*

The United States is undergoing a profound transformation. As the world evolves into a highly interconnected knowledge economy, the forces of technological innovation, globalization, and shifting demographics present both unprecedented challenges and boundless opportunities. But these macro trends tell only part of the story. Even before the pandemic, institutions stood at a crossroads; today, student needs and challenges have shifted rapidly and dramatically, even as online education and the growing integration of AI tools in classrooms and workplaces have introduced new complexities, new risks, and new possibilities. In this session, Scott Van Pelt, co-author of *The Great Upheaval: Higher Education's Past, Present, and Uncertain Future* and its forthcoming sequel, will explore how institutions—particularly two-year colleges—can adapt to meet the evolving needs of learners in a time of sweeping change.

10:00 – 10:15 AM

Transition & Coffee Break

10:15 AM – 12:30 PM

Breakout Sessions

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

To facilitate a more interactive and engaging experience, we have organized our breakout sessions into two blocks that will repeat. This ensures that all participants can attend each session in smaller groups.

Block 1: Session A and Session B

10:15 –11:20 AM

11:20 – 11:25 AM *Transition Break*

Block 2: Session A and Session B (Repeat. Switch Topics.)

11:25 AM – 12:30 PM

SESSION A - Visioning Workshop: Shaping the Future of Woodland Community College

Room 936

Join us for an interactive visioning workshop as we chart the future of Woodland Community College together. This is an opportunity to co-create a shared strategic plan that will drive transformative change and socio-economic opportunities for our students, families, and community. Through guided activities and open dialogue, we'll reflect on WCC's strengths, explore opportunities, and imagine bold possibilities. Facilitators will ensure all voices are heard, and a graphic recorder will visually capture our collective ideas to inspire ongoing action.

SESSION B - The Road(s) Not Taken

Room 925

Please join us for a discussion about the present reality and the potential future of dual enrollment at WCC. We will focus on how we can best serve students and the communities that we serve while mapping some possible pathways for our dual enrollment students.

12:30– 1:30 PM

Lunch & Trivia

1:30 – 1:45 PM

General Session

INSTRUCTION AND STUDENT SERVICES UPDATES

WCC Theatre

Presenters: Kathy Sorensen, VP of Instruction; Ariana Velasco, VP Student Services

1:45– 2:45 PM

General Session

WCC'S ROLE IN ALLEVIATING POVERTY & CREATING PATHWAYS TO SOCIOECONOMIC MOBILITY

WCC Theatre

Community colleges have long served as engines of opportunity—and at Woodland Community College, that mission is front and center. In this panel, faculty and staff will share how the college is actively working to break cycles of poverty and expand access to upward mobility for students and our communities. Panelists will highlight academic programs, student support services, workforce partnerships, and equity-driven initiatives that empower learners to achieve their goals. We'll engage around ways WCC is building pathways to meaningful employment, further education, and long-term stability. Panelist will discuss the challenges students face—and the transformative role Woodland Community College plays in helping them overcome barriers and thrive.

Panelists: Aree Metz, Academic Senate President; Charlene Eckels, Basic Needs Specialist; Gabriel S. Hernandez, Biology Faculty; Jerry Lomeli, Student Services Technician; Rajdeep Kaur, CalWORKs Program Counselor

2:45 – 3:00 PM

Transition Break

3:00 – 4:00 PM

Breakout Sessions

KEY UPDATES SHAPING OUR CLASSROOMS

Room 925
Faculty

Join us for this important breakout session where faculty leaders bring you up to speed on the latest developments impacting instruction. From Academic Senate initiatives to curriculum updates, this session will cover what you need to know about Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI) requirements ahead of WCC's Accreditation visit in September, progress on Common Course Numbering (CCN), and other significant changes affecting teaching and learning. Whether you're full-time or part-time, new to campus or a seasoned instructor, this is your opportunity to stay informed, ask questions, and engage in the conversations shaping our classrooms.

ADVANCING EQUITY: PLANNING FOR THE 2025–2028 STUDENT EQUITY PLAN

Room 936
Staff and Administrators

Join us for an interactive session focused on shaping our college's 2025–2028 Student Equity Plan. Together, we will explore collaborative strategies and meaningful activities to support the 5 Key Metrics and improve student outcomes. We will reflect on individual and collective roles in advancing equity, with the goal of informing future efforts and strengthening our shared commitment to student success.

4:00 PM

Adjourn

Performing Arts & Culinary Center Map



WOODLAND CAMPUS

Bldg. 900 - (1st Floor)



KEY DATES

Campus Connect

September 9, 2025
November 18, 2025
January 20, 2026
March 17, 2026
May 5, 2026

Accreditation Visit
September 15-16, 2025

**Spring Professional
Development Days**
January 6-9

Commencement
May 15, 2026