



COLORADO

COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

Joe Garcia Bio



Joe Garcia is the Chancellor of the Colorado Community College System (CCCS). As CCCS Chancellor, Garcia leads the state's largest system of higher education, which serves 125,000 students annually at 13 colleges and 35 locations across Colorado.

Garcia brings demonstrated leadership and commitment to advancing access and equity in higher education through various roles in both the public sector and in higher education.

Prior to his role at CCCS, Garcia served two years as President of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education ("WICHE") from June 2016 to June 2018. WICHE is an interstate compact created to provide access to, and improve the quality of, higher education opportunities for residents of the western United States.

From 2011 to 2016, he served as the Lt. Governor of Colorado and as the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education. During his time as Lt. Governor, Garcia focused on increasing equity in outcomes for all students, particularly those from low income backgrounds and communities of color. From 2006 to 2010, he was President of Colorado State University-Pueblo, which was named the 2008 Outstanding Member Institution by the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. Under his leadership, CSU-P saw enrollment increase dramatically, a blossoming of capital projects that improved capacity and the image of the University, and a dramatic increase in private gifts. Perhaps most notably,

Garcia also raised private funds to build a stadium and start a football program that won the NCAA Division II National Championship in its 7th year in existence.

From 2001 to 2006, Garcia was President of Pikes Peak Community College, Colorado's second largest community college. During his time at PPCC, he was twice recognized as President of the Year by Colorado students and several minority and student focused organizations, such as the NAACP, LULAC, The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and Phi Theta Kappa.

Garcia's previous public service positions included serving as a member of the Cabinet of Governor Roy Romer and as a White House appointee under President Bill Clinton. He was the first Hispanic partner in the 100-year history of Denver based Holme Roberts & Owen where he focused on public education law.

Garcia earned his Bachelor of Science in International Business (1979) from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a Juris Doctorate (1983) from Harvard Law School. Garcia currently serves on the Board for the Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund (MALDEF), Complete College America, the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI), the Colorado Workforce Development Council (CWDC), and the Business Experiential Learning (BEL) Commission. He is particularly pleased that he has been appointed by Gov. Polis to the Education Leadership Council, the first version of which he founded during his time as Lt. Governor. Under the leadership of Gov. Polis, the Council was reconstituted and re-energized and is now focused on improving the quality of and equitable access to all levels of public education in Colorado, from early childhood to post-graduate programs.

Garcia has four grown children and is married to Dr. Claire Oberon Garcia, the Dean of Faculty at Colorado College.

Bio (100 words) – Chancellor Joe Garcia

Joe Garcia is the Chancellor of the Colorado Community College System. Prior to his role at CCCS, Garcia served as President of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

From 2011 to 2016, he served as the Lt. Governor of Colorado and as the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education. During his time as Lt. Governor, Garcia focused on increasing equity in outcomes for all students, particularly those from low-income backgrounds and communities of color.

Garcia also served as President of Colorado State University-Pueblo from 2006 to 2010 and Pikes Peak Community College from 2001 to 2006.