



# SAFETY CONFERENCE

ARE YOU PREPARED

September 27, 2023  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Conference Center



**POLICE DEPARTMENT  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

5200 N. Lake Rd.  
Merced, CA 95343

Phone: 209-228-8273  
Email: [emergency.mgmt@ucmerced.edu](mailto:emergency.mgmt@ucmerced.edu)

# Conference Agenda

| Time                    | Event  | Location   |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.   | Registration   | Conference Center Lobby  |
| 8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.   | Opening Remarks<br>Chancellor Juan Sánchez Muñoz<br>Chou Her, Assistant Vice Chancellor<br>and Chief of Police<br>Laura Rodriguez-Mascorro,<br>Emergency Manager | Ballroom   |
| 8:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.  | Keynote Speaker<br>Dr. Jill McCluskey, Founder of the<br>Lauren McCluskey Foundation   | Ballroom   |
| 10:45 a.m. – 10:55 a.m. | Exhibit Break  | Lobby  |
| 10:55 a.m. – 11:55 a.m. | Breakout Session – Group 1   | Conference Center: Ballroom<br>105, 110<br>El Portal: 125<br>Welcome Center: 155 |
| 11:55 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  | Lunch and Exhibit  | Ballroom and Lobby   |
| 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.   | Breakout Session – Group 2   | Conference Center: 105, 110<br>El Portal: 125<br>Welcome Center: 155             |
| 2:00 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.   | Exhibit Break  | Lobby  |
| 2:10 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.   | Breakout Session – Group 3   | Conference Center: 105, 110<br>El Portal: 125<br>Welcome Center: 155             |
| 3:10 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.   | Exhibit Break  | Lobby  |
| 3:20 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.   | Breakout Session – Group 4   | Conference Center: 105, 110<br>El Portal: 125<br>Welcome Center: 155             |
| 4:20 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.   | Closing Remarks  | Ballroom   |





# ARE YOU PREPARED

Speaking Agencies: Lauren McCluskey Foundation, Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), U.S. Secret Service, UC Merced Police, UC Berkeley Police (retired), UCSF Police, University of California Office of the President, California State University Chancellor's Office, Stanford University, California Highway Patrol, Department of Education

## Keynote Speaker – Dr. Jill McCluskey, Lauren McCluskey Foundation

Jill McCluskey co-founded the Lauren McCluskey Foundation with her husband Matt after the murder of their daughter Lauren. Jill serves as the Foundation's President. She started the Lauren's Promise campaign, and she is collaborating on the campus safety score initiative. She shares Lauren's story to increase awareness of the seriousness of dating violence and make positive change, so that others will not lose their daughters to violence. Jill is also a Regents Professor and Director of the School of Economic Sciences at Washington State University. She received her Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics from UC Berkeley.

- ▶ Lauren's Story and Lessons Learned
- ▶ Campus Safety Initiatives
- ▶ Lauren's Promise

### Lauren's Promise

Lauren's Promise is a vow that anyone – faculty, staff, students, parents, and community members – can take to indicate to others that they represent a safe haven for sharing incidents of sexual assault, domestic violence, or stalking. Anyone who makes Lauren's Promise will listen to and believe those individuals who are being threatened or experiencing sexual assault, dating violence or stalking and will help connect victims to support resources. By making Lauren's Promise, individuals are helping to change campus cultures that respond poorly to dating violence and stalking throughout the nation.

I promise to:

- ▶ Listen and believe you if someone is threatening you
- ▶ Represent a safe haven for sharing incidents of sexual assault, domestic violence, or stalking
- ▶ Change campus culture that responds poorly to dating violence and stalking

Join the Lauren's Promise by scanning the QR code below.

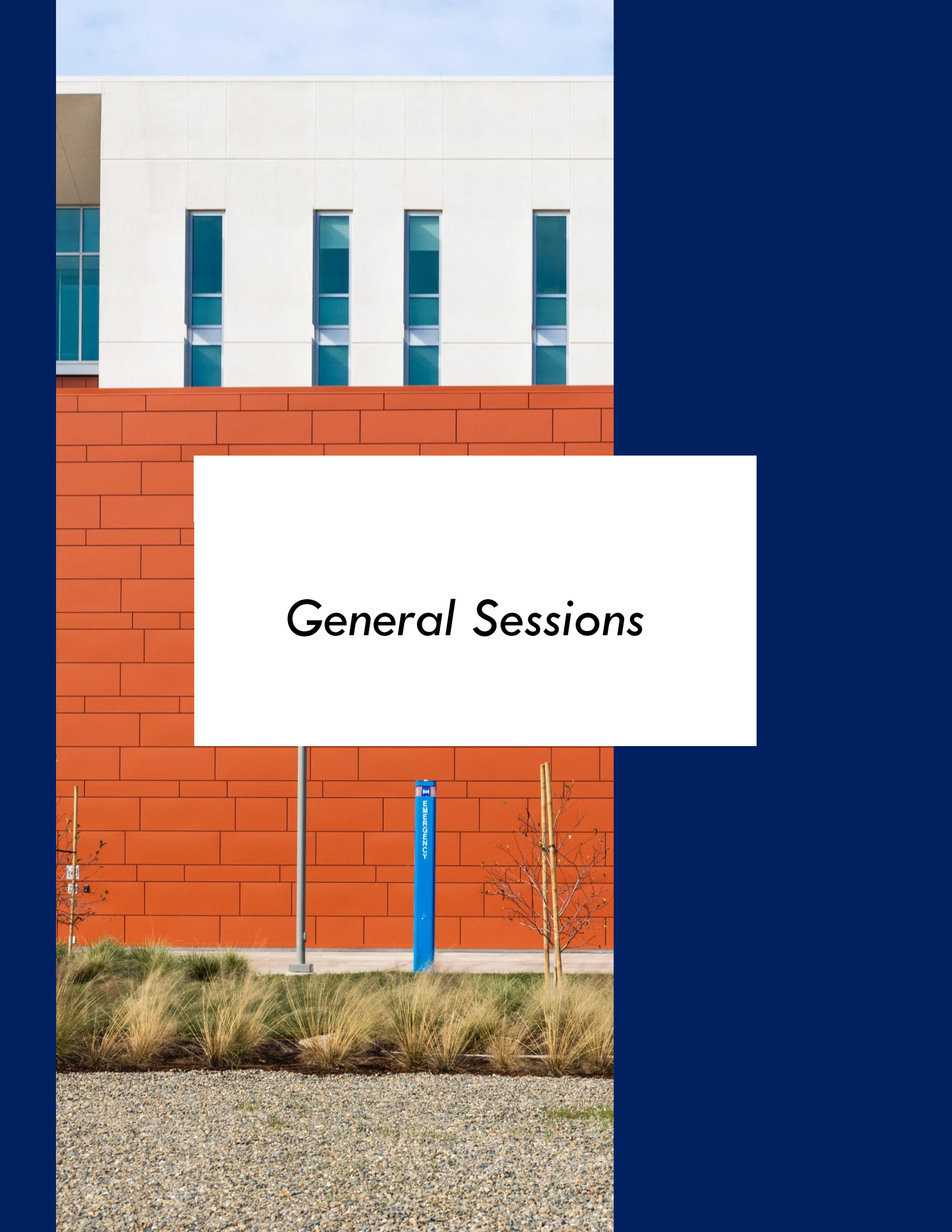


**I MADE  
LAUREN'S  
PROMISE**

**I WILL LISTEN AND  
BELIEVE YOU IF  
SOMEONE IS  
THREATENING YOU**







# *General Sessions*

## **Behavioral Threat Assessment**

Speaker: Dr. Aaron Cotkin, Ph.D. and Arlene Macias, Domestic Security Strategist, U. S. Secret Service: National Threat Assessment Center

Location: TBD

Times: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm & 3:20 pm – 4:20 pm

## **Black Swans, Grey Rhinos, and Dragon Kings: The Next Challenges for Emergency Management**

Speaker: Christopher Godley, Director of Emergency Management, Stanford University

Location: TBD

Times: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm & 3:20 pm – 4:20 pm

## **Breaking New Ground: Innovation, Emergency Management, and Artificial Intelligence**

Speaker: Amina Assefa, Director of Systemwide Emergency Management and Business Continuity, UC Office of the President

Location: TBD

Times: 10:55 am – 11:55 am & 2:10 pm – 3:10 pm

## **California Amber Alert System**

Speaker: Matthew Whitworth, Sergeant, California Highway Patrol

Location: TBD

Times: 10:55 am – 11:55 am & 2:10 pm – 3:10 pm



## Critical Event Planning

Speaker: Michelle Heckle, Homeland Security Division Commander, UC San Francisco Police

Location: TBD

Times: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm & 3:20 pm – 4:20 pm

## From Northridge to Now: Legacy of Earthquake at the CSU

Speaker: Jenny Novak, Director of Systemwide Emergency Management and Business Continuity, CSU Chancellor's Office

Location: TBD

Times: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm & 3:20 pm – 4:20 pm

## Human Trafficking Threats to Higher Education

Speakers: Kari Gomes, Sergeant and Kourtney Brown, Detective, UC Merced Police

Location: TBD

Times: 10:55 am – 11:55 am & 2:10 pm – 3:10 pm

## Jeanne Clery Act Compliance

Speaker: James Moore, Senior Advisor for Clery Act Compliance and Campus Safety Operations, Department of Education

Location: TBD

Times: 10:55 am – 11:55 am & 2:10 pm – 3:10 pm



## **Protest Management: Lessons Learned**

Speaker: Margo Bennett, Retired Police Chief, UC Berkeley Police

Location: TBD

Times: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm & 3:20 pm – 4:20 pm

## **ROG the Dog by FirstNet**

Drop In Session:

Animal Assisted Therapy to provide comfort and care in times of crisis.

Location: TBD

Times: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

## **Trends in Active Shooter**

Speaker: Alyssa Kim, Special Agent, FBI

Location: TBD

Times: 10:55 am – 11:55 am & 2:10 pm – 3:10 pm







# *Speaker Biography*





## **Aaron Cotkin, Ph.D.**

Social Science Research Specialist (SSRS)  
National Threat Assessment Center  
Protective Intelligence and Assessment Division  
U.S. Secret Service

Dr. Cotkin is a Social Science Research Specialist with the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) where he participates in the Center's mission to conduct research and provide trainings, consultations, and information-sharing on threat assessments and targeted violence. NTAC's focus is understanding, and developing methods to prevent, violence that targets government officials and facilities, public spaces, K-12 schools, university campuses, and workplaces.

Prior to joining NTAC in 2019, Dr. Cotkin taught college courses in political science and ethics, and was managing editor of *The Adam Smith Review*, a peer-reviewed academic journal. Dr. Cotkin earned a Ph.D. in political science from University of California, San Diego.



## **Amina Assefa**

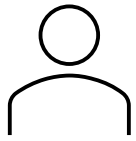
Director of Systemwide Emergency Management and Business Continuity  
University of California Office of the President

Amina Assefa is the systemwide Director of Emergency Management and Business Continuity at the University of California (UC), Office of the President. In her role, she is responsible for coordinating with UC Locations on all aspects of resiliency planning. She previously served as the UC Center of Excellence in Readiness and managed UC Berkeley's Office of Emergency Management.

Assefa has 18 years of experience in emergency management, business continuity, and health and medical emergency planning. She serves on the California Earthquake Early Warning Advisory Board, UC/CDPH Health Security Executive Steering Committee, Disaster Resilient Universities Advisory Board, and the statewide Safety Assessment Program Steering Committee.

Prior to the UC, Amina worked for New York City Emergency Management and the State of Louisiana. Amina graduated from Mills College and holds a Master of Public Health degree from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.





## **Arlene Macias**

Domestic Security Strategist  
National Threat Assessment Center  
U.S. Secret Service

Arlene Macias is a Domestic Security Strategist (DSS) for the U. S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC), where she collaborates with community safety partners to facilitate NTAC's trainings, consultations, and bolster the awareness and education of NTAC's resources related to domestic security and targeted violence prevention. She provides NTAC briefings and assists with policy and complex threat assessment consultations. Ms. Macias is regionally stationed at the U.S. Secret Service Los Angeles Field Office and her area of responsibility includes thirteen western states.

Ms. Macias has over 30 years of experience with the Secret Service, which began in the Los Angeles Field Office, where she provided support in counterfeit, financial crimes, forgery, background investigations, and protection functions before transferring to Washington, D.C. in 1998. While in D.C., she served as the Staff Assistant for the Office of Professional Responsibility. During her assignment in the Office of Professional Responsibility, she was responsible for planning, directing, and coordinating the inspection and internal security of all Secret Service field, protective, and headquarter offices and employees to appraise the effectiveness of operations, assess the quality of management and supervision, and determine adherence to Secret Service policies, regulations, and procedures. She also provided support in special investigations and surveys involving the agency's role in major criminal cases, protective functions, and employee misconduct.

Ms. Macias received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Southern New Hampshire.



## **Christopher Godley**

Director of Emergency Management  
Stanford University

Christopher Godley was recently appointed as the Director of Emergency Management for Stanford University where he leads the oversight and execution of the University's comprehensive emergency management programs including preparedness, business continuity, response, and recovery. Previously, Chris led the creation of the new Department of Emergency Management in Sonoma County following their devastating 2017 firestorms.

A Certified Emergency Manager, Chris has worked in Bay Area local governments for more than 25 years in the counties of Sonoma and Marin as well as the City of San Jose. As a consultant, he managed a national team for 5 years serving government and the private sector.

Chris has served in various leadership positions in response to more than 3 dozen local, state and federal disasters. A UCLA grad, Chris holds a master's in Emergency Services Administration from Cal State University, Long Beach and he is a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard.





## James Moore

Senior Advisor for Clery Act Compliance and Campus Safety Operations  
U.S. Department of Education

Jim Moore is the Senior Advisor for Clery Act Compliance and Campus Safety Operations at the United States Department of Education. He serves as the Federal Government's leading expert on the Clery Act, the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, and other campus safety and crime prevention initiatives. Mr. Moore has led numerous high-profile investigations, including the Department's examinations of the Jerry Sandusky and Larry Nassar scandals at Penn State and Michigan State respectively. He has worked with institutions to design and implement sexual assault prevention programs focused on primary prevention, bystander intervention, and risk reduction and has served as a Subject Matter Expert for the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Homeland Security on a variety of public safety topics.

Jim also leads the Department's Clery Act training, technical assistance, and outreach initiatives. He is a frequent speaker and trainer on campus safety issues, including sexual assault prevention and response, threat assessment, and substance abuse prevention. Jim is a member of the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals. From 2014-2017, Mr. Moore served on the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault and was named to the ED-DOJ-HHS Task Force on Sexual Violence in Education and the VAWA Interagency Working Group in 2022.



## Jenny Novak

Director of Systemwide Emergency Management and Business Continuity  
California State University Chancellor's Office

Jenny Novak is an award-winning Certified Emergency Manager with over fifteen years of experience in emergency management and fire prevention. Novak was recently selected as the first systemwide Director of Emergency Management and Continuity for the California State University system. Previously, she worked for the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services where she responded to several presidentially declared major disasters, including the Woolsey and Thomas Fires.

She is a 2022 graduate of the Naval Post Graduate School Center for Homeland Defense & Security's Executive Leaders Program. Novak holds a Master of Arts in Hazards Geography from the University of Southern California.

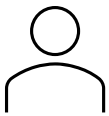
Jenny Novak has over fifteen years of experience in emergency management. Novak serves as the Director of Emergency Management and Continuity for the CSU system. Previously, she worked in response and recovery for the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services and for CSU Northridge as the Emergency Preparedness Manager.



## **Jill McCluskey, Ph.D.**

President and Co-Founder of the Lauren McCluskey Foundation  
Regents Professor and Director of the School of Economics Sciences,  
Washington State University

Jill McCluskey co-founded the Lauren McCluskey Foundation with her husband Matt after the murder of their daughter Lauren. Jill serves as the Foundation's President. She started the Lauren's Promise campaign, and she is collaborating on the campus safety score initiative. She shares Lauren's story to increase awareness of the seriousness of dating violence and make positive change, so that others will not lose their daughters to violence. Jill is also a Regents Professor and Director of the School of Economic Sciences at Washington State University. She received her Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics from UC Berkeley.



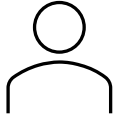
## **Kari Gomes**

Sergeant  
University of California Merced

Sergeant Gomes holds a Master's Degree in Administration of Justice. She began her law enforcement career at Merced Police department in 2007. During those years, commercial sex work was viewed as criminal prostitution. She participated in undercover prostitution stings to arrest commercial sex buyers. Sergeant Gomes realized an overwhelming demand for sex for money in Merced that still exists today.

Sergeant Gomes joined UC Merced Police in 2011 starting in the Investigations division of the department as a Detective. She now serves as the Investigations Sergeant and represents the department on several teams, committees and educational programs. Gomes is recognized as an expert witness in Merced Superior Court.

She works alongside Detective Brown on proactive cases. They both utilize their individual skills to communicate with pimps to remain current on what is now the fastest growing crime in California. Sergeant Gomes is elated to answer questions from university officials, professors, students and parents about how to be ready.



## **Kourtney Brown**

Detective  
University of California Merced

Detective Brown began her career in Huron, CA as a patrol officer. During her five years she developed strong relationships with community members serving in the agricultural community as laborers. Detective Brown continued her career as a patrol officer with Merced Police department for five years. During this time, she investigated calls for service relating to verbal arguments at hotels, domestic violence injuries, prostitution (now referred to as commercial sex), violence, drug sales, and gangs. Her work led her to UC Merced Police Department to work directly with university students for the past four years.

Detective Brown applied her knowledge and began investigating online to learn what was taking place with UC Merced specifically. Detective Brown designed a multi-week free training, “Bring down the Crown” for Merced County. She is recognized as an expert with investigators throughout the state of California reaching out to her for guidance.

Detective Brown is currently working with the University of California, Office of the President’s threat assessment team to make Human Trafficking a Systemwide educational priority. Her vision is to educate all students, staff and faculty in the University of California system. Detective Brown is available to assist any agency requesting assistance.



## **Margo Bennett**

Retired Police Chief  
University of California Berkeley

Chief Margo Bennett has over 45 years of law enforcement experience. She spent 13 years in the Federal Bureau of Investigation and investigated financial and violent crimes. Assigned to the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia, Chief Bennett developed an expertise in the training field in the areas of Interview and Interrogation, Contemporary Issues in Law Enforcement, Violence in the Workplace, Hostage Negotiations, and other fields of study. Chief Bennett has 34 years’ experience in law enforcement at higher education institutions in Georgia, Virginia and California. She holds a Master’s Degree in Counseling and Educational Psychology. Chief Bennett began her tenure at the University of California Police Department Berkeley in 2002 as Captain and was Appointed the UCPD Berkeley Chief in April 2013. Chief Bennett retired from the University of California Police Department in February 2023.





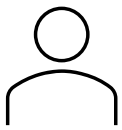
## Matthew Whitworth

Sergeant  
California Highway Patrol

Since June 1st, 2016, Sergeant Matt Whitworth has been employed at the California Highway Patrol's, Counterterrorism Threat Awareness Section (CTAS), Emergency Notification and Tactical Alert Center (ENTAC). He first started at ENTAC as an officer fielding calls for missing persons, performing various functions during the Departmental Operations Center and Emergency Operations Center during Tactical Alerts for civil disturbances and natural disasters, completing Suspicious Activity Reports, and offering investigative assistance to allied agencies. In October of 2019, he promoted to sergeant and became the Missing Person Specialist and Clearinghouse Supervisor for California. He is an expert on the inner workings of the public California's Missing Persons Alerts.

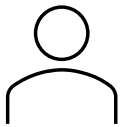
Matt is the lead AMBER Alert trainer for California Highway Patrol and is active member of the California Child Abduction Task Force, serving as an instructor at their missing person training events. He is currently working on the initial implementation of the Department's new Feather Alert for missing indigenous persons and Yellow Alert for hit-and-run crashes when a person is killed.

Matt has worked for the California Highway Patrol for 16 years. He began his career in the Altadena Area office, then transferred to the San Bernardino Area office, the Capitol Protection Section and currently in the Counterterrorism and Threat Awareness Sections Emergency Notification and Tactical Alert Center. He has worked cooperatively with Interpol, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and various state and local allied agencies."



## Michelle Heckle

Homeland Security Division Commander  
University of California San Francisco Police



## Alyssa Kim

Special Agent  
Federal Bureau of Investigations

The image features a modern building with a facade of solar panels and large glass windows. In the foreground, a person stands on a stone wall, looking out over a landscape. The scene is set against a clear blue sky. A white rectangular box is overlaid on the image, containing the word "Sponsors" in a black, italicized serif font.

# *Sponsors*





Contact us:

UC Merced Police – Emergency Management

Phone: 209-228-8273

Email: [emergency.mgmt@ucmerced.edu](mailto:emergency.mgmt@ucmerced.edu)

Feedback:

