



LEO T. MCCARTHY  
CENTER FOR PUBLIC  
SERVICE AND THE  
COMMON GOOD



NOVEMBER 2023



### USF RISING YOUTH MENTORSHIP PROGRAM KICKS OFF IN NOVEMBER

The USF Rising Mentorship program, a collaboration between the McCarthy Center and the USF Athletics Department, officially begins this fall with partners Booker T. Washington Community Service Center and Mo' Magic. The long-awaited partnership with local youth-serving organizations kicked off with participating mentors, mentees, partners, staff attending a BBQ lunch, introductions, and games on Welch Field, followed by a campus tour. USF Rising athletes and student mentors will be paired up with historically underserved youth in 6th-8th grades with the goal of promoting connections, exploring challenges, highlighting civic engagement, and instilling a college-track mindset.

### Note from the Senior Director

Can you feel that magical chill in the air? It's fall and great to see the halls are bustling and the classrooms are buzzing here at USF as the Center continues to enhance the student experience and impact the lives of hundreds of undergraduates throughout the semester.

I'd like to send a HUGE shout-out and appreciation to McCarthy Center Board members whose years of service to the Center are coming to an end: Larry Simi, Alexandra Morgan, and Casey Farmer. We are so thankful for your dedication, commitment, and time supporting the Center.

Wishing you a fall semester filled with wisdom, success, and a touch of pumpkin spice. Let's keep crushin' it!

With much appreciation,

Derick E. Brown  
Senior Director, Leo T. McCarthy Center



### "NETWORK NIGHT OUT" COMES TO KORET LODGE

The center's annual fall networking gathering takes on a new name and location. Previously known as the Power Breakfast or Power Hour, this event returns under the banner of Network Night Out on Friday, November 17, from 5:30 at Lone Mountain's Koret Lodge.

The evening will include networking insights from special guests, brief reflections from students, and an opportunity to meet and mingle with McCarthy Fellows and friends of the center. Returning and current McCarthy Fellows, USF in DC Fellows, prospective students, alums, mentors, supporters, and friends can look forward to a high-energy evening of celebration, new introductions, networking, and reconnecting.





Engage  
San  
Francisco  
Literacy



2022-2023  
YEAR END  
REPORT

## USFVotes comes out in full force this fall

The USFVotes team has kicked off the new academic year with a mission — to empower the USF community for the upcoming 2024 general election! Through initiatives such as New Student Orientation and registration, student fairs, and monthly Dorm Storms, USFVotes has enthusiastically engaged students.

Last month, in celebrating National Voter Education Week, USFVotes hosted the SF Department of Elections on campus, continuing its All-In Campus Action Plan to execute a comprehensive voter engagement strategy that will ensure a well-informed and activated community throughout the year.

## ENGAGE SAN FRANCISCO LITERACY THRIVES IN '22-'23

The recently released Engage San Francisco Literacy Year-end Report shows the program continues to develop literacy informed, anti-racist, and equity-minded student tutors reaching 400+ K-5th grade children in five Western Addition public elementary schools and afterschool programs. Read more: [www.usfca.edu/mccarthy/engage-san-francisco](http://www.usfca.edu/mccarthy/engage-san-francisco)



## WELCOME NEW BOARD OF ADVISERS

**Hydra Mendoza** (left), serves as chief of strategic relationships at Salesforce. She was the first and only Filipina elected to San Francisco public office. In 2006, she successfully won a citywide bid and served 3 terms on the SFUSD Board of Education.

**James Taylor** (right), a USF political science professor, is a political commentator on U.S. and California politics. Author of *Black Nationalism in the United States: From Malcolm X to Barack Obama*, he currently researches African American political history in California.



## CONVERSATIONS FOR THE COMMON GOOD PARTNERS WITH KQED LIVE

Conversations for the Common Good, the center's signature speaker series featuring local, state, and nationally recognized figures in current affairs, joins forces this fall with local public broadcast outlet, KQED Live. The first conversation, entitled "Listening to Next-Generation Leaders" featured the Bay Area's youngest elected officials: California State Assemblymember Alex Lee, City of Hercules Mayor Alexander Walker-Griffin, and City of Sunnyvale Councilmember Alysa Cisneros. See the recording on KQED's YouTube channel.



## ALUM IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**Solinna Ven '23**, recent alum and Robert Holstein scholar, served as a McCarthy Fellow in San Francisco's City Hall where she discovered a passion for equity. There, she learned much about herself in addition to the skills she wanted to develop to complement her urban studies major and interest in public policy. Featured in USFs "Equipped to Lead and Succeed" series, Solinna reveals how she challenged a case of imposter syndrome by recognizing her abilities and strong communication skills. Read the full Q&A interview with Solinna at [www.usfca.edu/news/solinna-ven](http://www.usfca.edu/news/solinna-ven)

## McCarthy Center Events

November 8 **Community-Campus Partnerships: Gather, Connect, and Celebrate**  
4-8 p.m.  
Masonic 103

Tuesdays through Nov. 28 **USFVotes Election Pop-ups**  
11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.  
University Center,  
1st Floor Tabling Station

November 17 **Networking Night Out**  
5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Koret Lodge

December 6 **Last Day of Classes**  
December 15 **Mid-Year Commencement**

Stay informed on the McCarthy Center's students, alums, staff and partners in 2022

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