

# VISION 2030 NONCREDIT SUMMIT 2025

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Reimagining Noncredit Education  
for Equity and Economic Mobility



**VISION 2030**  
A Roadmap for California  
Community Colleges

# “Reimagining Access and Equity: Research on the Impact and Innovation of Noncredit College Programs”



Moderator: ***Dr. Emma Diaz***, ACCE President | Director,  
Inland Adult Education Consortium, San Bernardino  
Valley College

*Panelists:*

***Dra. Graciela Vasquez***, Dean of Continuing  
Education, Cerritos College

***Dr. Jasmine Port***, Interim Associate Dean of Career  
Services and Experiential Learning, Mt. San Jacinto  
College

***Dr. Maria Lopez***, Counselor | Noncredit Coordinator,  
San Bernardino Valley College

Breakout Session Description: This panel brings together a group of newly minted Doctors of Education (Ed.D.) whose **dissertation research explores the evolving role of noncredit programs in community colleges and higher education**. As institutions seek to broaden access, meet workforce needs, noncredit education has emerged as a dynamic and flexible vehicle for innovation. **Panelist will share the findings and recommendations of their dissertation work**. Together, these studies provide timely insights into the barriers, benefits, and breakthroughs shaping the future of noncredit education. The panel will also include a moderated discussion exploring how research can inform policy, program design, and strategic investment in this critical sector of postsecondary education.



**"We are the Mothers Who Push Them Further."**

**Latina Immigrant Parent Students and the  
Community College Familial Gateway**

**Dra. Graciela Vasquez**

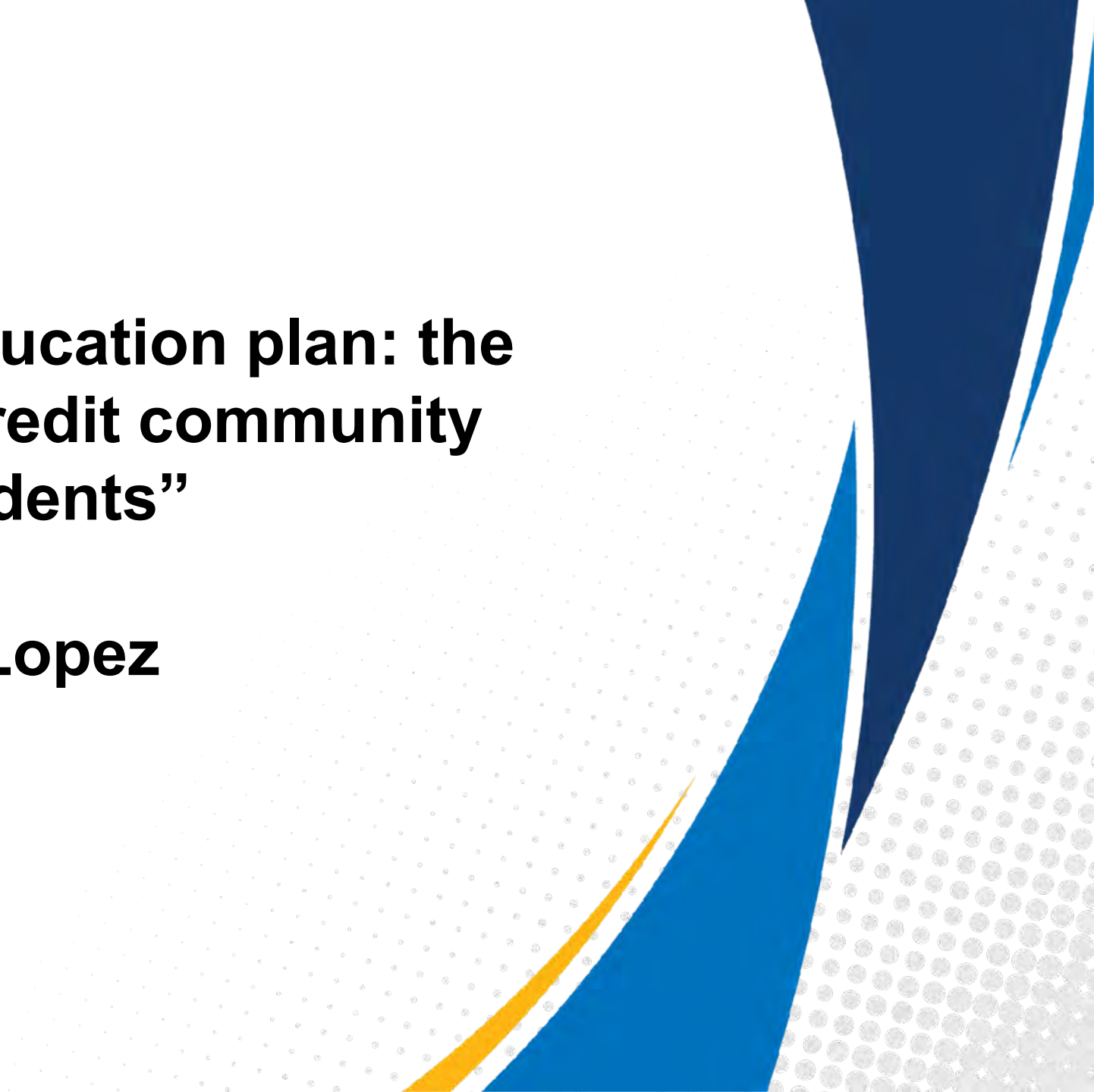
**“Understanding and recognizing the lived experiences of noncredit adult education students at the California Community College”**

**Dr. Jasmine Port**



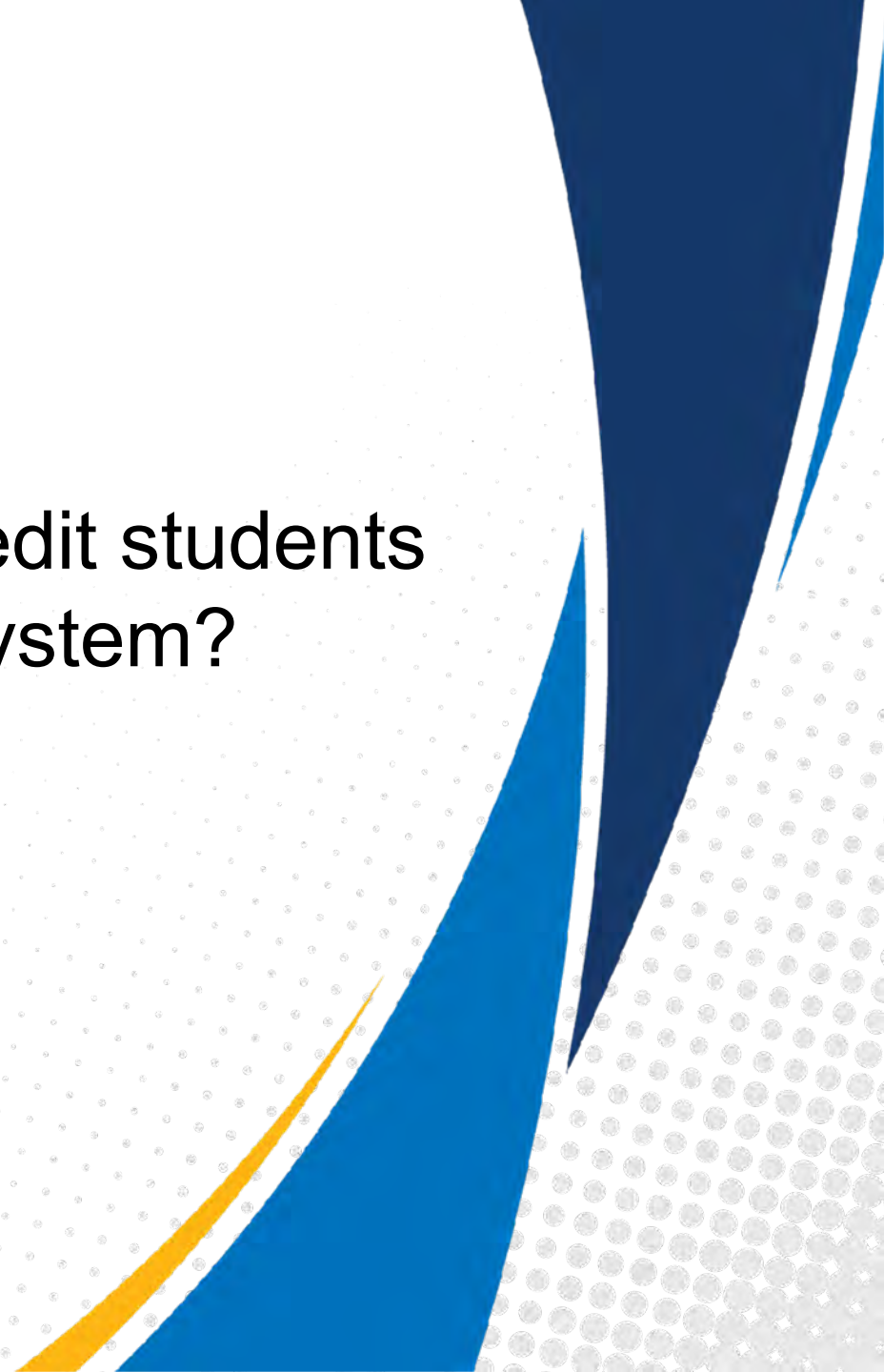
**“Going beyond the education plan: the  
experiences of noncredit community  
college students”**

**Dr. Maria Lopez**



Question #1 for all panelists:

What motivated you to focus on noncredit students in the California Community College System?





Question #2 for all panelists:

Can you please provide an overview of your dissertation research.



***For Dr. Jasmine Port***

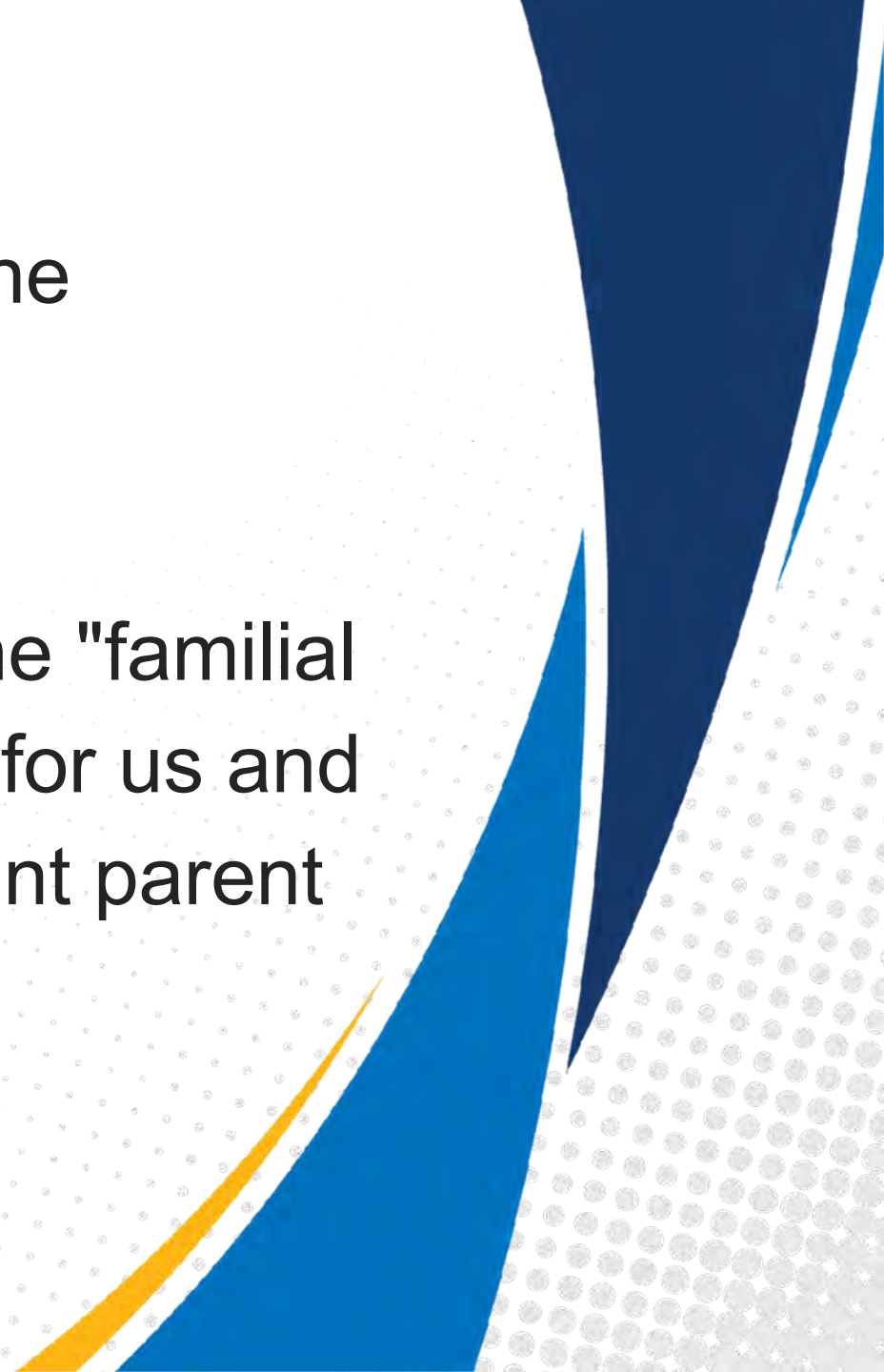
(Understanding and recognizing the lived experiences of noncredit adult education students)

Your research centers the lived experiences of noncredit students—what were the most common themes you found about how these students experience community college systems and structures?

***For Dra. Graciela Vasquez***

(Latina Immigrant Parent Students and the  
Community College Familial Gateway)

Your dissertation highlights the idea of the "familial gateway"—can you unpack this concept for us and how it uniquely applies to Latina immigrant parent students in noncredit programs?



***For Dr. Maria Lopez***

(Going Beyond the Education Plan: The Experiences of Noncredit Community College Students)

Your title suggests that the traditional education plan does not fully capture the experiences of noncredit students, what's missing, and what did your participants share about what they really need to thrive?

***For Dr. Jasmine Port***

(Understanding and recognizing the lived experiences of noncredit adult education students)

What recommendations emerged from your research that might help administrators and faculty better "recognize" and support these students?

***For Dra. Graciela Vasquez***

(Latina Immigrant Parent Students and the  
Community College Familial Gateway)

How do family values and Community Cultural  
wealth enhance the noncredit experience of  
students?





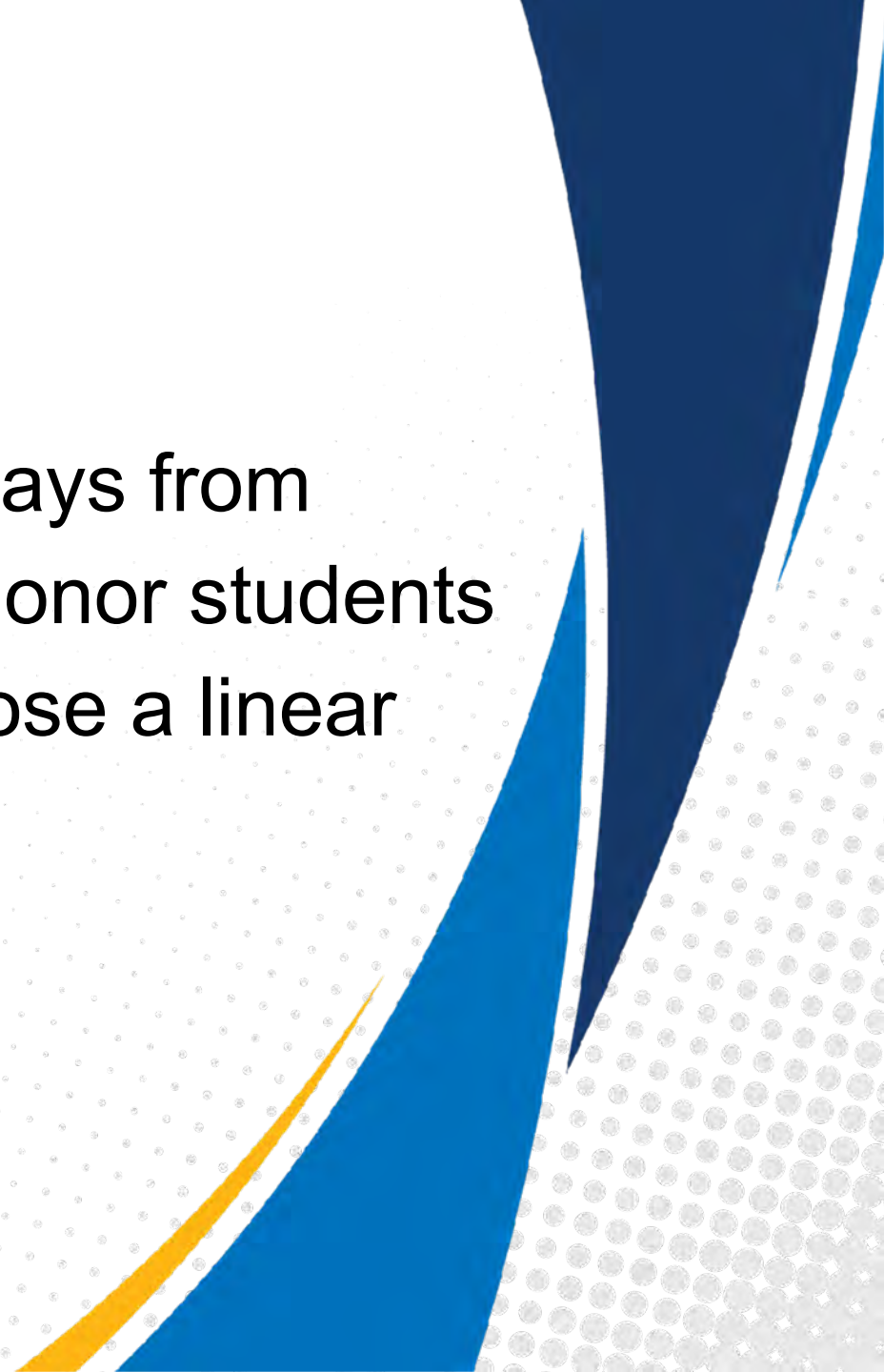
***For Dr. Maria Lopez***

(Going Beyond the Education Plan: The  
Experiences of Noncredit Community College  
Students)

What barriers or institutional practices stood out in  
your findings as being misaligned with noncredit  
students lived realities?

## Forward-Looking Question:

How can we create more inclusive pathways from noncredit to credit-bearing courses that honor students lived experiences rather than simply impose a linear model of success?



# THANK YOU!

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## Moderator:

Dr. Emma Diaz, Director, Inland Adult Ed Consortium