

Jose Lalas, Ph.D.

Brief University Experiences

Jose Lalas has been involved in teacher education for 36 years as a faculty in both public and private universities (14 years at CSU Dominguez Hills; currently, 22 years at University of Redlands). Prior to his teacher education experience, Jose has been a junior high school classroom teacher. He has served as an associate dean, director of teacher education, and coordinator of credential program. He was the founding director of the University of Redlands' Center for Educational Justice and directed it for 17 years. Currently, he is Professor of Literacy and Teacher Education and past director of the University of Redlands' Center for Educational Justice. He co-authored five published books: *A Teaching and Learning Framework for Social Justice* (2006), *Instructional Adaptation as an Equity Solution for English Learners and Special Needs Students* (2007), *Who We Are and How We Learn: Educational Engagement and Justice for Diverse Learners* (2016), *Challenges Associated with Cross-cultural and At-risk Student Engagement* (2017), *Minding the Marginalized Students Through Inclusion, Justice, and Hope: Daring to Transform Educational Inequities* (2021) and *Contextualizing Critical Race Theory on Inclusive Education from a Scholar-Practitioner Perspective: Does It Really Matter?*. His latest peer-reviewed articles have all appeared in *Journal of Leadership Equity and Research (JLER)*, *Journal of California Association of Professors of Education Administration (CAPEA)*, and *Journal of Critical Issues in Educational Practice*, all published in 2021, and more recently, in *Multilingual Educator* in 2025. In 2024, I was recognized by the California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE) and awarded me the "Courage to Act and Social Justice Award."

Beta Sigma Families and My Run for School Board

The Beta Sigma Fraternity brothers and families have always been consistent supporters, both physically when they were still able and monetarily. During the first and second campaigns in the 90's the fraternity brothers and wives with their young elementary and middle school grades children at that time were doing house-to-house or distributing campaign materials in Corona City events.

Jose Lalas has served an elected school board member of the Corona-Norco Unified School District and has served this district as member of the Board of Education for about 29 years (from 1990 to 2003; from 2008 to 2024). He initiated the institutionalization of collaboration between the District Administration and the two employee associations, introduced the creation of the district's "think-tank" to study the issue of achievement gap, equity, and to find ways how to address the disparity in achievement among the diverse groups of students including learners with special needs, and the implementation of dual language immersion program to meet the needs of the English learners, foster the use of two languages for non-Spanish speaking students, and provide the opportunity for native-English speaking children to be fluent in Spanish. He focused his attention on improving the District's curriculum and instruction including professional development. The collaborative mode of bargaining, "think-tank's" focus

on equity and closing the achievement gap, dual language immersion programs, and parent center are still operational and contribute to the quality of education in Corona-Norco schools. He strongly supports the empowerment of ALL parents including those of students with special needs.

Family Information

Jose earned his Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy) in Education with emphasis in Reading/Language Arts and specialization in bilingual or dual language education from the University of Washington. He obtained his master's degree (M.Ed.) and Education Specialist degree (Ed.S.) in Reading/Language Arts from Seattle Pacific University. Born and raised in the Philippines, Jose earned his Bachelor of Science from the University of the Philippines.

Jose has been married for 46 years to his wife Linda, a retired Registered Nurse for a total of over 42 years, 30 years at Kaiser Permanente alone. They have 4 grown-up children: Jonah, a UCLA undergraduate and Berkeley Law School graduate, was a union organizer and is now a labor lawyer; Jeremy, a UCLA undergraduate and Harvard master of education graduate, is an elementary and middle school teacher in New York and Mississippi; Joanna, a University of Redlands undergraduate and with New York University's master of arts in education degree, is an experienced U.S. History, World History, and Government high school teacher in New York and now, director of curriculum and instruction at a Charter School in New York; Jolene, a UC Berkeley undergraduate with Columbia University master degree in public health and doctor of education degree (Ed.D.) in health sciences, works as a research coordinator in New York. Jose and Linda have 4 grandchildren: Ella, Elsie, Oliver, and Tessa.