

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS

#### Non-Affiliate Members



**Dr. John R. Swiger, Chairperson**  
Dr. Swiger brings more than 20 years of experience in higher education to the San Joaquin Valley College (SJVC) Board of Governors. Prior to his service on the board, Dr. Swiger held the position of the SJVC Fresno Campus President for many years until his retirement in 2012. Dr. Swiger also held the position of SJVC's Director of Accreditation

from 2005-2007. In that capacity, Dr. Swiger successfully led SJVC through its reaccreditation with the ACCJC/WASC. Prior to his employment with SJVC, Dr. Swiger held the position of Associate Dean with National University; Director and Dean for Heald Business College; and Director of Professional Education for the State of Washington.

Dr. Swiger earned his doctoral degree in Education from Seattle University. He earned a Master's Degree in Education from Central Washington University and a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Colorado.

John serves as Sr. Warden/Vestry for St. Columba Church.



**Jill Sozinho**  
Ms. Sozinho is an English Teacher at Tulare Western High School. In that capacity, she also serves as the Lead Teacher-Head of the school's Professional Learning Community and is a member of the Advisory Board for the Pre-Medical Academy. Ms. Sozinho has also served as an adjunct faculty member of the Fresno

Pacific University where she mentored student teachers.

Ms. Sozinho earned her Professional Clear Single Subject Teaching Credential from Chapman University where she also completed her Master of Arts in Teaching. She also earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and holds multiple certifications.

Ms. Sozinho volunteers at the Bethlehem Center – a non-profit organization that provides meals, a food pantry, clothing, vouchers, and a thrift store.



**Donn Ritter**  
Retired (former SJVC Campus President) UPS manager after a 28-year career. Mr. Ritter recently started D Ritter Consultants, to help businesses and organizations with efficiency, production and customer service.

**Public Service:** Mr. Ritter is actively involved in the Visalia Sunset Rotary Club and instrumental in the club's charter and served as their Charter President and he is now currently on their board. He served on the Board for the Visalia Chamber of Commerce and was their Board President. Mr. Ritter's other public service contributions include his involvement with the American Cancer Society; CASA, Regional Site Council; and the Creative Center Foundation. Mr. Ritter has also served on the Board of Directors for the Tulare County United Way. Mr. Ritter was recognized by the Visalia Chamber of Commerce as their Man of the Year for his lifetime of volunteering, nonprofit involvement and other contributions to the community.

**Academic Background:** Mr. Ritter received his Master's Degree from the California School of Professional Psychology and earned his Bachelor's Degree from Fresno Pacific University.

**Other:** Mr. Ritter and his wife, Frony, have been married for 35 years. Frony is a dedicated psychotherapist who has been in private practice for over 25 years. They are the proud parents of two sons: Getty and Cale, who both have completed their BA and MA programs, respectively.



**Marlea Lyon**  
Ms. Lyon has over 20 years of experience in the banking industry. She is currently the Portfolio Manager for Wells Fargo and is highly skilled at maintaining strong relationships with middle market and high-net-worth clients, cross-selling within bank lines of business, and acquiring new relationships.

Ms. Lyon earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Agribusiness from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Ms. Lyon is the Past President of the California Women for Agriculture – Tulare-Kings Chapter. She has served on

multiple advisory committees and boards, including Wish Upon a Star, YMCA, and the Visalia Unified School District Ag Advisory.



**Susan DeLong**

Ms. DeLong is an educator with over 20 years of teaching experience and eight years in higher education administration. She currently holds the position of Academic Coach for Exeter Unified School District. In that capacity, Ms. DeLong assists instructors with curriculum, technology, instructional strategies, and

assessment. She also mentors new teachers and conducts professional development. From 2010-2015, Ms. DeLong was the Director of Assessment for San Joaquin Valley College. Ms. DeLong was instrumental in creating and administering an outcomes-based program review process for the then 13 SJVC campuses and 28 academic programs. She also managed the curriculum for the 28 academic programs and assisted with faculty hiring, training, and evaluation. She held the position of Assistant Director of Curriculum and Instruction from 2007-2010. In that role, Ms. DeLong primarily provided professional development to college faculty based on current educational research. She also coordinated the implementation of a college-wide learning management system for the delivery of learning objects for over 400 courses. From 1987-2007, Ms. DeLong taught seventh and eighth grade language arts with experience with English language learners and GATE students at Valley Oak Middle School. She taught sixth, seventh, and eighth grade math at Reef-Sunset Unified School District from 1983-1987.

Ms. DeLong completed the WASC sponsored Assessment Leadership Academy in 2010. Ms. DeLong has a Master's Degree in Educational Technology from Fresno Pacific University. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Education from Central Michigan University.

Ms. DeLong is a board member of Christ Lutheran Church; Past President of Christ Kids Preschool Board; and Past President of Eta Zeta Chapter, Delta Kappa Gamma.

**Board of Directors' Members**



**Mark Perry**

Mark Perry is co-owner and Chairman of the Board of Directors for San Joaquin Valley College, Inc., a corporation that governs Ember Education, San Joaquin Valley College and Carrington College. He has the responsibility of conducting corporate meetings that shape College operations, reporting and

growth. The Board's oversight steers College direction toward greater growth, stability and success.

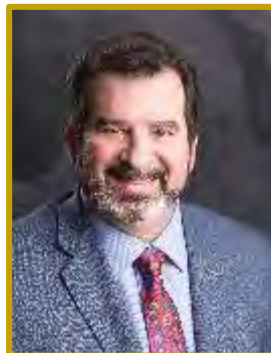
As one of the founding family members of San Joaquin Valley College that began in 1977, Mark (with his brother Mike Perry) supported parents Robert and Shirley Perry's dream to bring higher education and training to their small Visalia, CA community. The brothers took ownership of SJVC in 1995 and expanded the original vision to include 15 SJVC campuses in Central, Northern and Southern California that provide 20-plus career-focused programs to their communities.

Until his retirement in 2015, Mark brought a valuable point of view to San Joaquin Valley College's operations and administration. Mark's influence, honed by instrumental positions he held in areas such as Admissions, Marketing, corporate representation and - for over 20-years - President of the College, was felt in every facet of decision-making and operation.

Owned by San Joaquin Valley College, Inc., Ember Education was created to support the administration and business services of both San Joaquin Valley College and Carrington College and any future acquisitions.

Mark has represented both San Joaquin Valley College and the community service ideals his parents instilled in their sons through a spirit of giving. His philanthropy, support and leadership have helped to shape communities that provide so many opportunities to its populations.

Mark's vast history of community service includes: Kaweah Delta Hospital Foundation, Member of the Board; Visalia Breakfast Rotary; member of Rotary District 5230, Youth Exchange Committee; Visalia Education and Training Council. He also served on the Advisory Board of the Sequoia Council Boy Scouts of America and received the Good Scouter of the Year award.



**Michael Perry**

As CEO/President of Ember Education, a division of San Joaquin Valley College, Incorporated, Mike Perry oversees the operation, growth and accountability of all educational entities operating under SJVC, Inc. His mission is to provide the highest outcomes for students and graduates on all San Joaquin Valley College and Carrington College campuses Ember Ed serves.

As co-owner/CEO and member of San Joaquin Valley College, Inc.'s Board of Directors, Mike directs the college teams toward continued success.

A member of the founding family of San Joaquin Valley College, Mike has made private college education his life's work. His parents Robert and Shirley Perry started San Joaquin Valley College in 1977, and Mike and his brother Mark held the most menial jobs to further their family's vision of career training for their small community. The brothers assumed ownership and full operation of the College and its many campuses in 1995. Mark Perry has since retired from college operations.

Giving back to his community through personal involvement and financial support is a life-long philosophy and practice for Mike. He has been an active Rotarian since 2005, serving most recently as Vice President. He has served his professional community as a Board Member and Chairman of the California Association of Private Postsecondary Schools (CAPPS) and is a member of the Board of Governors for both San Joaquin Valley College and Carrington College.

In his hometown, participation as a member and Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Visalia Chamber of Commerce was instrumental in his expression of community support. Mike was the honored recipient of the Visalia Junior Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year award.

#### Affiliate Members



#### **Russ Lebo**

Mr. Lebo is the Chief Financial Officer for Ember Education. As the CFO, Mr. Lebo is responsible for managing Ember Education's income and operational costs through strategic planning and the development of control systems that will preserve company assets and income. Starting with San Joaquin Valley College in 1995, Mr. Lebo

broadened his financial administrator acumen over the years. As a member of the Senior Management Team and Executive Council, Mr. Lebo oversees and is responsible for staff of several departments, including Accounting/Finance and Payroll, Information Systems, Network Operations, Purchasing, Facilities, Benefits Administration and Risk Management. He also acts as Trustee for the company's 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan.

Mr. Lebo has been a site team member for the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, visiting several California private and community colleges seeking re-accreditation.

Mr. Lebo earned a Master of Business Administration degree from University of Redlands and a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from California State University, Stanislaus. Mr. Lebo also serves as board member for Visalia Breakfast Rotary and Family Services of Tulare County.



#### **Nick Gomez**

Nick Gomez was named President of San Joaquin Valley College in August 2018 after 13 years of service in pivotal roles as Chief Operating Officer, Assistant Vice President, Campus Director and business program faculty. His ever-escalating value and expertise placed him in strategic positions of College influence and growth where he helped steer SJVC toward greater heights.

As President, Nick leads SJVC in fulfilling its mission and delivering on its vision as he works with a team of senior managers. He balances his extensive operations background with leadership abilities to realize strategic long and short-term goals for the College. His focus on SJVC's financial sustainability assures stable growth. His commitment to strong community relations deepens roots for a shared future.

Nick's cross-section of experience in strategy development, systems design and implementation, and operational management make him uniquely prepared to lead the College forward.

In addition to his experience with SJVC, Nick served as General Manager for U.S. operations with an international manufacturing company, working in the telecom and automotive industries. His time in this role provided opportunities for international travel and working within culturally diverse settings.

Currently pursuing a PhD in Human and Organizational Systems from Fielding Graduate University, Santa Barbara, CA, Nick also holds an MBA with concentrations in Leadership and Managing Organizational Change from Pepperdine University. He studied at the University of Antwerp, Belgium, with a focus on Emerging Business Opportunities. His education and training from the Kaplan and Norton Palladium Group on building a Strategy Focused Organization (SFO) earned him the Balanced Scorecard Certification.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Mark Perry**  
**Michael Perry**  
**Robert Perry**

## San Joaquin Valley College Senior Leadership



**Nick Gomez**  
President



**Sumer Avila**  
Provost



**Carole Brown**  
Vice President of Instruction  
and Student Success



**Scott Hager**  
Vice President of  
Administration



**Anthony Romo**  
Vice President of Enrollment  
and Graduate Services