

Michael Aldaco

Assistant Vice President of Student Development and Academic Services, has for 28 years, Michael Aldaco has worked in California higher education institutions to increase opportunities for secondary students from all economic, racial and ethnic backgrounds. Since 2002 he has served as Assistant Vice President for Student Academic Preparation in the UC Systemwide office in Oakland. In this capacity, Mr. Aldaco oversees California efforts to heighten the academic preparation of secondary school students such that they are highly motivated and prepared to pursue university study. Mr. Aldaco also serves as chief executive officer for the Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) program.

MESA was named among the country's five most innovative public programs in 2001 by Innovations in American Government, a national project of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and the Ford Foundation. MESA was lauded for its creative partnering of industry and education to produce academic success for educationally disadvantaged students in science, math and engineering. MESA received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring in 2000.

Mr. Aldaco is a former fellow of the Texaco Management Institute, the National Assembly of Hispanic Higher Education Associations and the National Center for Education Statistics. He was a board member of a think tank on multicultural admissions issues for the National Association of College Admissions Counselors. He is also the founding President of MESA USA, an association of MESA program directors from all of the states that offer MESA programs.

Mr. Aldaco holds a master's degree in education from CSU Bakersfield and a bachelor's degree in sociology at UC Santa Barbara. He is a past president of the UC Santa Barbara Alumni Association.