

Q&A PANEL

BUSINESS AND SCIENCE PROFESSIONALS

RSVP here: <https://ps.uci.edu/mentors/2022-Mentor-Career-Panel-RSVP>

Panelists:

Tiffany Awischus is a Sales Market Manager for Armstrong Flooring Inc in Los Angeles. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from UCI in 2010; 3 of those years were spent being an undergrad researcher in Professor Eric Potma's lab. Shortly after graduating, she started her career in the construction business with Custom working in their R&D lab formulating adhesives, benchmarking competition, and qualifying products through ISO, ANSI and ASTM test standards. She was then offered an opportunity with Parex USA, as their R&D Manager. In this role, her team focused on launching new and innovative flooring solutions, investigating quality issues, attending trade shows, and providing updates to the executive management team. She was promoted to Project Manager where she managed multiple brands and launched various products in both the commercial and residential markets exceeding the company's KPIs for the facade and flooring brands. From marketing, she took an opportunity in sales with T&M Supply as an A&D Sales consultant promoting hard surface solutions (terrazzo flooring, epoxy resinous flooring, and quartz countertops). She drove sales through specifications and customer relationships. Currently, she has joined the Armstrong Flooring organization as a Market Sales Manager for Los Angeles that allows her to incorporate her technical, marketing and sales experience in one role.

John Leyerle has retired from wage-earning for ten years and is actively engaged in "giving back." He enjoys family and friends, travel, and service to others through volunteer undergraduate mentoring, career development teaching, veteran's honor programs and affirming support of mental health. He has robust, multi-decade career experience in the private-sector working in land development, in the public-sector working at John Wayne Airport, and in the military-sector as a senior officer in the United States Coast Guard. Drawing from his academic training in physics at UCI, technical work in community noise measurement and control, management experience, many leadership roles and his passion to support others, John is enthusiastically committed to working with numerous non-profit organizations, including UCI's Physical Science Undergraduate Mentoring, Working Wardrobes and Honor Flight Southland.

Mario Pulido, currently a Senior Biopharma Applications Scientist at SCIEX, a life science and biotechnology company specializing in mass spectrometry and capillary electrophoresis technologies, enjoys applying Genetic and Biochemical concepts for the advancement of Next Generation Biologics. Previous experience at Kite Pharma in Santa Monica California, allowed Dr. Pulido to characterize CAR T-cell therapy products for highly aggressive blood malignancies. After majoring in chemistry at UCI, Dr. Pulido completed a master's degree in biochemistry at Cal Poly Pomona, and a doctoral dissertation on lung cancer immunotherapy at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California.

Phillip Richardson decided to pursue medicine in his Senior year of completing the BS in physics. While completing the prerequisites, he completed a BS in biology. After completion of medical school, he did a general surgery internship followed by a residency in anesthesiology. Upon graduation, he joined a local group. Within 6 years, he had become the CEO of the 50+ physician group and shortly after was invited to join the Board of CHOC Children's Hospital. During his tenure as CEO and a board member, he realized that he needed a better understanding of business; thus leading to his MBA. Currently, he serves on the hospital, state and national committees to make medicine better for everyone. He continues to practice clinically as well as participate in research.



Tiffany Awischus



John Leyerle



Mario Pulido



Phillip Richardson

Thursday, February 3 at 5:30 pm via Zoom