

Walt Jacobs

Building on more than 25 years of experience as a college professor and administrator, Dr. Walt Jacobs is a certified executive and leadership coach who sparks clients' reflections of their narratives and then explores possibilities for the next chapters of their trajectories. He has an astute ability to see the potential in people, evaluate what they are poised to take on, and help them chart and navigate pathways to use their strengths to sort through clutter, succeed, and shine. He especially enjoys collaborating with people with nontraditional backgrounds who want to creatively expand their communities.



Walt is a Professor of Ethnic Studies at California State University East Bay and was previously the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Prior to these appointments he was a university dean for nine years: seven as the Dean of the College of Social Sciences at San José State University, and two as the Founding Dean of the College of Social Sciences & Professional Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. He began his academic career on the faculty of the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities for fourteen years, including five years as the Chair of the Department of African American & African Studies.

Walt is deeply invested in higher education leadership coaching and mentoring activities. He was active for many years with the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences (CCAS), a professional organization for university deans, including serving on the Board of Directors, co-directing the Seminar for Department Chairs/Heads, and directing the Seminar for Department Chairs/Heads. At San José State University he provided mentoring to new faculty in the College of Social Sciences and also met regularly with new department chairs to effectively assist the transition into their new roles. During the 2016-2017 academic year he co-directed the San José State University Deans' Leadership Academy, in which faculty explored leadership opportunities, both formal and informal.

Walt holds a B.S. degree in electrical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and has M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in sociology from Indiana University-Bloomington. He earned his professional coach certification from the Hudson Institute of Coaching and is an Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) Qualified Administrator.