



Melinda Cabrera

President & CEO



Melinda Cabrera began serving as president and CEO of the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara in August 2023. A native of Apple Valley, California, Ms. Cabrera earned a bachelor's degree in communications at Loyola Marymount University before being named assistant director of guest services at the Santa Barbara Zoo. She joined the United Way of Santa Barbara County in 2013, serving first as a community impact officer and later as director of strategic partnerships from 2016 to 2020. As the organization's vice president, Ms. Cabrera led United Way's programming and initiatives in the areas of financial empowerment, education, and crisis response and recovery. Under her leadership, United Way's pandemic-related outlays totaled more than \$53 million. In 2019, Ms. Cabrera was included in *Pacific Coast Business Times*' "40 Under 40" report.