



## **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, the Scholarship Foundation was one of only six organizations nationwide selected by the U.S. Department of Education to conduct initial testing of the latest Free Application for Federal Student Aid in 2024. She was included in *Pacific Coast Business Times*' "Top 50 Women in Business" report in 2024 and 2025.