

**ABOUT HDEZ**

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Rafael "Hernandez, D.M., is a composer, educator, and senior academic leader with a focus on innovation, strategic planning, and student success. As Deputy Provost at Cal State East Bay, he oversees academic operations, enrollment, and a \$110M budget across four colleges and multiple academic units, supporting nearly 1,000 faculty and staff. He led major initiatives with significant institutional impact, including a multi-year faculty workload program; a no-strings-attached \$500 technology voucher for students; and the creation of *Pioneer Insights*, the institution's authoritative data source for student success, academic program review, and strategic planning. As a creative thinker with a passion for making complex ideas accessible, he is also the creator of *IV-V-I: The Harmony Card Game*, which takes the complexity of music theory and makes it approachable through play, turning challenging concepts into something intuitive, engaging, and fun to learn. "Hdez," as his students call him, brings a unique blend of creative vision, technical fluency, and results-oriented leadership to higher education.