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Dr. Pedro Avila

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Dr. Avila became the 8th President of the Gavilan Joint Community College District on July 12, 2022.

He has over 20 years of experience leading successful community college initiatives to increase college-going rates for underrepresented student populations.

Before joining Gavilan College, President Avila served as the Vice President of Student Services/Assistant Superintendent at Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC).

His administrative experience includes serving as Associate Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management, Admissions & Records, and Information Systems at State Center Community College District. At West Hills Community College District, he served as Vice President of Student Services and Vice-Chancellor of Institutional Effectiveness & Enrollment Management.

Dr. Avila was born in Guadalajara, Mexico, and spent his childhood there. In 1984, his family emigrated to the United States

to find better opportunities. Like many migrant families, they worked as farmworkers and experienced the hardships of poverty and housing insecurity. Dr. Avila's work is grounded in his experiences as an immigrant, English-language learner, and first-generation college student.

His childhood experiences with poverty and housing insecurity shape his strong state-wide advocacy for affordable student housing. At Santa Rosa Junior College, he led the construction of an on-campus affordable student housing facility for 352 students.

President Avila holds degrees in Latino studies and business from Fresno State University, a Master's in Business Administration from Rockhurst University, and a Doctorate in Community College Policy from the University of Maryland. He also earned a Certificate in Institutional Performance Assessment from Harvard's Higher Education Institute.