



DREIER ROUNDTABLE
CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE



**ROSE INSTITUTE
OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**
CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE



Policy Research and Political Challenges

DEBORAH GONZALEZ '85

Monday, November 6, 2017

Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum

Claremont McKenna College

Reception at 5:30 pm | Dinner at 6:00 PM | Speaker presentation at 6:45 PM

Think tanks play an important role in the U.S. policy process, attempting to improve lawmaking and governance by testing political assumptions through empirical research, and offering policy alternatives based on evidence. However, a think tank's ability to influence policymaking rarely hinges on the strength of their claims or the quality of their findings. An ever-changing political climate, driven by public opinion, legislative politics, interest group lobbying, and a host of other factors make it challenging for think tanks to understand what issues to focus on and how to effectively influence the policymaking process.

Deborah Gonzalez '85 spent a career working in the California legislature, serving as Policy Director to five different Republican leaders, and now directs government affairs for the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC). Ms. Gonzalez has a unique perspective that combines an intimate knowledge of process in Sacramento with the policy research environment of PPIC. She will discuss the divide between policy research and the policy process in California government, and ways in which the two can work better together to improve lawmaking.

Ms. Gonzalez's talk is co-sponsored by the Dreier Roundtable and the Rose Institute for State and Local Government.