

**Estela Mara Bensimon**

University Professor Emerita  
Founding Director, Center for Urban Education  
University of Southern California

Known for creating the term “equity-minded,” **Dr. Estela Mara Bensimon** is Director of Bensimon & Associates, continuing her lifelong commitment to normalizing racial equity—helping higher education leaders and professionals improve outcomes for minoritized students.

As Founding Director of the Center for Urban Education, which Dr. Bensimon created in 1999 and led until it merged in 2020 with the USC Race and Equity Center, she developed the Equity Scorecard—a process for using inquiry to drive changes in institutional practice and culture, increasing equity in higher education outcomes for minoritized students.

Dr. Bensimon’s scholarly accomplishments led to her election to the National Academy of Education and an appointment by the Governor of California to the Education Commission of the States; in 2020, she was honored with ASHE’s Howard Bowen Award for a Distinguished Career as well as the McGraw Prize for innovation in higher education. Her most recent book, *From Equity Talk to Equity Walk: Expanding Practitioner Knowledge for Racial Justice in Higher Education*, co-authored with Tia Brown McNair and Lindsey Malcom-Piqueux, was published in 2020.

Dr. Bensimon currently serves on a variety of boards, including the Campaign for College Opportunity as Chair, and Complete College America as Vice Chair. A longtime professor of higher education at the USC Rossier School of Education, Dr. Bensimon earned her doctorate in higher education from Teachers College, Columbia University. In 2020, the president of USC named Bensimon a University Professor, an honor awarded very selectively based on multi-disciplinary interests and significant accomplishments in several disciplines.