



Eric Rood Class of 2025

Eric graduated from Las Plumas High School (LPHS) in 1989 with a 3.7 GPA. He was a three-sport athlete, earning varsity letters in football, basketball, and track. He received the Coaches Award in basketball as a freshman, JV football as a sophomore, and for Varsity football as a senior. He was the starting center on the football team when LPHS beat Chico High for the first time in its history.

Following his graduation from LPHS, Eric attended California State University, Chico, where he earned his BA degree in business administration with a specialization in accounting in 1994.

Before he was appointed Chief of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS), Eric's distinguished 30-year career included roles such as Public Works Chief, Assistant State Labor Commissioner, Deputy Labor Commissioner IV – Regional Manager, Deputy Labor Commissioner II – Hearing Officer, and Deputy Labor Commissioner/Industrial Relations Representative. He began working with the State of California in 1998, focusing on tax auditing and compliance.

At age 39, Eric became the youngest Assistant State Labor Commissioner in California history. As a Governor appointee, Eric was tasked with the significant role of leading and enriching California's apprenticeship programs. He retired in November 2023.

Honors bestowed on Eric were the State of California Sustained Superior Accomplishment Award for his work with the State Board of Equalization and the California Association of Apprenticeship and Training Award as DAS Chief.

Over the years, Eric has been active in his community, serving as assistant treasurer and board member at his church for 12 years and being a member of the Sutter County Grand Jury in 2023-2024. Eric has been dedicated to public service throughout his life.

Acting Secretary of Labor for the United States, Julie Su, states in her letter of support for Eric, *I got to work closely with Eric for almost eight years. He was my Assistant Chief, someone who rose to the ranks in state government civil service quickly. Upon meeting Eric, it was very easy to see why. Eric was always full of energy, dedicated to doing his job with excellence, hardworking, and committed to ensuring that workers receive fair treatment and a fair shot at the American Dream. This was evident every day in the work he did. I also had the privilege of continuing my work with Eric when I was appointed California Secretary of Labor. Eric embodies the values of leadership, service, and dedication.*

Eric has been married to his wife, Jennifer Burns-Rood, an Oroville High School graduate, for over 30 years. They have three children and make their home in Yuba City, CA.

