



Final Slating Community
Engagement Advisory Board
August 2023

POTENTIAL VACANCY CATEGORY

Advocacy

PLEASE DESCRIBE WHY YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD.

I would like to join the Community Engagement Advisory Board because I believe strongly that quality, longitudinal data is key in making necessary change that uplifts our communities and families across the state. As a non-profit professional working with K-12, higher education, and workforce partners across the state, I often see the value of shared data definitions and metrics. Across these constituencies, it is data that drives all decision making, evaluation, and action. The introduction of the C2C Data System into the larger state ecosystem will support these constituencies and those they serve - students and families- in understanding their educational and career pathways and opportunities. As I try to effect similar change without the data system and work to onboard partners in shared data practices, the ability to share and learn from the C2C Data System will strengthen this important work.

WHAT COMMUNITIES ARE YOU AFFILIATED WITH THAT WILL BRING VALUE TO THE ADVISORY BOARD (SUCH AS YOUR EXPERIENCE BEING A STUDENT OR TEACHER, OR WITH REGIONALLY FOCUSED WORK)? PLEASE SELECT ALL CATEGORIES THAT APPLY TO YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS, EXPERIENCE, AND/OR WORK.

Research Organization, Advocacy Organization, Community Organization, Regional Level of Focus of Work - County, Regional Level of Focus of Work - State-wide

ARE YOU AFFILIATED WITH ANY MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS, USER GROUPS, OR AFFINITY GROUPS THAT RELATE TO THE WORK OF C2C? PLEASE ADD THEM HERE

L.A. Compact
L.A. Region K-16 Collaborative
University of Redlands Alumni Board of Directors
CA Undocumented Higher Education Coalition
Fix Financial Aid Coalition
LA Higher Education Hub
SoCal CAN
Linked Learning Alliance
CivicLab National Talent Development Network

HOW ARE YOU AN AMBASSADOR IN THE COMMUNITY OR COMMUNITIES THAT YOU ENGAGE WITH? HOW COULD YOU SOLICIT INPUT FROM COMMUNITIES OR DRAW FROM YOUR OWN LIVED EXPERIENCE TO SHARE NEEDS AND CONCERNS THAT ARE RELEVANT TO C2C?

In my role as Director, Postsecondary Strategy & Policy at UNITE-LA I have the pleasure to work closely with administration and faculty at public and private postsecondary institutions and K-12 districts in L.A. County. Specifically leading the L.A. Region K-16 Collaborative, I work closely with 15 community colleges, 5 CSUs, UCLA, UCI, the LA County Office of Education and 12 specific school districts, including LAUSD. As the convener of the L.A. Compact Student Success Workgroup, I also have the pleasure of working closely with six private postsecondary institutions in the area.

In working with these partners, we collectively strategize and enact student success reforms on campuses and off, in order to ensure students have the access to academic and social supports necessary to enroll in, persist, and complete their educations. Through this work, we have a strong history of supporting efforts beginning in the K-12 system, to ensure that students and families are aware of options and opportunities and have resources to pursue them.

In this spirit, I would utilize these outlets and others associated with the L.A. Compact, including practitioner coalitions in early childhood education, Community Schools, and cross-sector employers, to incorporate information about the C2C Data System, uses, and resources, into the actions and long-term activities of these collaboratives. In doing so, I would be able to solicit input from professionals who would be actively using the data to support students and families to ascertain best uses, needed augmentations, and general ability to operate the system and its contents.

WHAT EXPERIENCE HAVE YOU HAD SUPPORTING AWARENESS OF AND ACCESS TO STUDENT AND EDUCATOR TOOLS, PARTICULARLY REGARDING COLLEGE, CAREER, AND FINANCIAL AID PLANNING?

In recent years, I have led or supported numerous initiatives which have supported awareness and access to resources for college readiness and career readiness, through mediums such as social media, local policy, advisory committees, and conference presentations.

In my role at UNITE-LA, I also support the planning and implementation of L.A. Cash for College, the regional initiative associated with CSAC. In addition to planning an annual college and career fair, highlighting regional and state colleges, local employers, and college-going support systems, such as scholarships, on-campus resources, and community resources. This begins a season of communicating with students and families the benefit of completing financial aid applications, and applying for postsecondary opportunities, which is done via social media, newsletters from our team and in partnership with other CBOs and school districts, and through the planning and convening of workshops to aid students and families in completing applications.

In another recent instance of helping practitioners and students/families understand college going, I worked with LAUSD to capitalize on the passing of AB 469 and ensure that all graduating students have the necessary resources and opportunities to fill out a FAFSA or CADAA and plan for a postsecondary opportunity. This involved first working with the School Board to pass a resolution to develop a mandate to do this work. In aid, I garnered support from over 40 local organizations that urged the School Board to pass the resolution. Following the passing, I worked with LAUSD to convene 30 community members, in addition to LAUSD school and district staff to review current practice and policies, practices and policies of other districts in the state and across the

nation, and commission research on best practices and success rates. This work resulted in a plan being implemented by the district that focuses on professional development for teachers and counselors, outreach to families and communities, and dedicated education and mentoring time for students to be aware of their options for postsecondary education and fruitfully plan for them.

Another example, relates to my work with community college and CSU administration, communicating the importance of quality data and data informed practices to support the transfer and completion of students between systems. Partnering with WestEd, I led efforts to collect and analyze transfer data from 17 public institutions. These 17 member institutions were then invited to join a community of practice to analyze and understand barriers to access and completion to historically underserved students and begin the process of developing interventions that support their academic and social success. This has resulted in the development of two new transfer centers located on CSU campuses, dual admissions and support practices between a CSU and five of its feeder community colleges, and the development of a CSU fund to grant community college students additional funds necessary to complete a degree and successfully transfer.

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY CONFLICTS OF INTEREST THAT WOULD PROHIBIT YOU FROM SERVING ON THIS ADVISORY BOARD? IF SO, WHAT ARE THEY?

I do not know of any conflicts of interest that would prohibit me from serving on this Advisory Board

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE POSITION?

I have followed the work of the C2C Data System since its inception and have worked closely with those at WestEd who were involved in the initial development. Since then, I have interacted with colleagues from various organization on this committee, such as PPIC, Ed Trust West, SoCal CAN, and more who are conducting related work. Additionally, I have been urged to apply by partners and funders, like some associated with the Hilton Foundation and College Futures Foundation, the CSU System Office, and LACCD.

POTENTIAL VACANCY CATEGORY

Community

PLEASE DESCRIBE WHY YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD.

I believe community engagement is the cornerstone for responsive policies for students and their families to be able to access information on their progress so they can be ready for college or career technical education to ensure their success. This system is particularly imperative for low-income, students of color that have limited knowledge on how to navigate resources to higher education institutions. Research shows that these groups have lower retention and graduation rates, impacting their quality of life. By having access to various types of information, families, advocates, and school leaders can work together on how best to serve the unique needs of students and their educational journeys. Providing data to those impacted the most – serves as a powerful tool to raise knowledge, engagement, and opportunities for advocacy.

WHAT COMMUNITIES ARE YOU AFFILIATED WITH THAT WILL BRING VALUE TO THE ADVISORY BOARD (SUCH AS YOUR EXPERIENCE BEING A STUDENT OR TEACHER, OR WITH REGIONALLY FOCUSED WORK)? PLEASE SELECT ALL CATEGORIES THAT APPLY TO YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS, EXPERIENCE, AND/OR WORK.

Advocacy Organization, Community Organization

ARE YOU AFFILIATED WITH ANY MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS, USER GROUPS, OR AFFINITY GROUPS THAT RELATE TO THE WORK OF C2C? PLEASE ADD THEM HERE

None.

HOW ARE YOU AN AMBASSADOR IN THE COMMUNITY OR COMMUNITIES THAT YOU ENGAGE WITH? HOW COULD YOU SOLICIT INPUT FROM COMMUNITIES OR DRAW FROM YOUR OWN LIVED EXPERIENCE TO SHARE NEEDS AND CONCERNS THAT ARE RELEVANT TO C2C?

For the past 15 years, I have dedicated myself to community and family engagement through a policy and advocacy lens. In one of my recent roles, I served as the Associate Director of Alliance for a Better Community (ABC). In this role, I ensured the work we envisioned and planned for was done through a community-centered and led approach. To elevate voices, the team at ABC held regular community discussions to hear the lived experiences of the families in our parent network. This supported the creation of the Latino/a Scorecard Report — a report that addresses the opportunities and challenges of Latino/as in Los Angeles County. The report reviewed progress on five issues areas: education, health, public safety, economic prosperity, and civic engagement. The report developed recommendations that were informed by various stakeholders, including community members. The largest participation was in the education stakeholder meeting, where all

participants elevated the importance of data to drive conversations to address inequities in the K-16 education system.

My work at ABC inspired my doctoral dissertation, where I am focusing on the experiences of first-generation, low-income Latina community college students. Through this dissertation, my hope is to elevate the voices of the students to inform policies and practices at their respective schools. These conversations are timely due to the pandemic. For this group of students, an informative longitudinal data system that is accessible and community friendly can keep building college conversations, as well as workforce trends to fully support students.

In professional and school settings, I draw from my experiences as a first-generation, Latina who experienced poverty while growing up in Los Angeles. My parents came to the United States from El Salvador in the 80s, fleeing a civil war. They arrived in Los Angeles with an elementary school education, and even with this unsurmountable pressure, the value they placed on education and the hope for a prosperous future for their children was undeniable. This story is the story of immigrant parents arriving in this country with hopes of a better life for themselves and their children. These experiences have shaped my work to address inequities in education and the spectrum of challenges that come with navigating a complex school system.

WHAT EXPERIENCE HAVE YOU HAD SUPPORTING AWARENESS OF AND ACCESS TO STUDENT AND EDUCATOR TOOLS, PARTICULARLY REGARDING COLLEGE, CAREER, AND FINANCIAL AID PLANNING?

In my role at ABC, I led the development of the College Access and Success in Southeast Los Angeles Priorities Framework. The goal of the framework was build a college going culture in the Southeast Los Angeles region to increase access and more importantly success for students. The framework was first discussed with advocates from different groups and organizations to inform ABC and its team of the timeliness of such a framework. Through these meetings, advocates shared that persistent gaps were still present for the region's students, including college preparation, access, and completion. To build a holistic and responsive framework, the ABC team held listening sessions with students, parents, community leaders, and school leaders. This provided us a clear picture of where the gaps and the opportunities existed. This framework with six policy recommendations was presented to elected officials and funders to push forward policies and funding opportunities. In doing this, the ABC team was able to build connections to meet the efforts of the policies in the framework. For example, we were able to connect elected officials and schools to organizations that provided financial aid planning for both students and families. This launched college and work fairs across a number of schools in the region, as well as partnerships of various entities.

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY CONFLICTS OF INTEREST THAT WOULD PROHIBIT YOU FROM SERVING ON THIS ADVISORY BOARD? IF SO, WHAT ARE THEY?

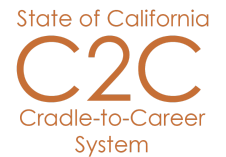
None.

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE POSITION?

Email

LOPEZ, KARINA

COMPTON COLLEGE, COUNSELOR FOR EOPS/CARE/NEXT UP PROGRAMS



POTENTIAL VACANCY CATEGORY

Practitioner

PLEASE DESCRIBE WHY YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD.

I would like to join the C2C Community Engagement Advisory Board so I can participate in macrolevel projects that impact the lives of students I serve at the community college level and the prospective students we serve for higher education. I am passionate about engagement communities and including their voices/input in macrolevel planning and programs. Additionally, as I have high touch with students in CA Higher Education system I would also like to increase my experience within the non-profit, private and other sectors that affect our state's educational system. The short description of this position speaks to my passions and I hope to meaningfully contribute to C2Cs success.

WHAT COMMUNITIES ARE YOU AFFILIATED WITH THAT WILL BRING VALUE TO THE ADVISORY BOARD (SUCH AS YOUR EXPERIENCE BEING A STUDENT OR TEACHER, OR WITH REGIONALLY FOCUSED WORK)? PLEASE SELECT ALL CATEGORIES THAT APPLY TO YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS, EXPERIENCE, AND/OR WORK.

Practitioner - California Community Colleges

ARE YOU AFFILIATED WITH ANY MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS, USER GROUPS, OR AFFINITY GROUPS THAT RELATE TO THE WORK OF C2C? PLEASE ADD THEM HERE

No - I am not affiliated with any membership organizations, user groups, or affinity groups related to the work of C2C.

HOW ARE YOU AN AMBASSADOR IN THE COMMUNITY OR COMMUNITIES THAT YOU ENGAGE WITH? HOW COULD YOU SOLICIT INPUT FROM COMMUNITIES OR DRAW FROM YOUR OWN LIVED EXPERIENCE TO SHARE NEEDS AND CONCERNS THAT ARE RELEVANT TO C2C?

I am an ambassador for the students I serve at Compton College by participating in shared governance at my campus. As a faculty member, I participate in various committees and workgroups that operate based on the feedback our students provide to us about their needs, the barriers we create for them, and what good things we can strengthen. Additionally, I am an ambassador in the sense that I speak to students all day, everyday, so I get first hand feedback about things they like and do not like. I take their feedback and share it with the appropriate stakeholders to make changes. I can assist with soliciting input from administrators/classified staff/parents/faculty/and students via promoting surveys, focus-groups, meetings, tabling, interviews etc.

WHAT EXPERIENCE HAVE YOU HAD SUPPORTING AWARENESS OF AND ACCESS TO STUDENT AND EDUCATOR TOOLS, PARTICULARLY REGARDING COLLEGE, CAREER, AND FINANCIAL AID PLANNING?

My experience supporting awareness and access to tools regarding college, career and financial aid include attending professional development events that aid me in creating workshops to host for students. For example, I have participated in Cash for College Trainings yearly to be able to assist with FAFSA/Dream Act Application Workshops. I attend Immigrants Rising Trainings that teach and empower me to support Undocumented Students' journey in higher ed + what aid they qualify for and how we can maximize the aid + what nuances we need to be aware of for some career options for them. I support our career center by promoting events + workshops. Through my college I have also participated in Motivational Interviewing, MBTI and Strong Certification Trainings to be more competent at providing career counseling. For access I help with being out in the community to promote our college and its services including career and financial aid services. Just yesterday I co-presented at CSU Dominguez Hills for 100+ HS GEAR UP Students through a grant from UC Irvine to promote higher ed, explain the majors/careers they can pursue, and also explain the financial aid they qualify for. This conference targeted undocumented students, English Learners, first-generation, low-income, students of color from 9 - 11th grade. I also worked for a non-profit organization that works with the legislature to propose macrolevel policy changes that increase access, persistence and completion rates for CA Colleges. My role at the non-profit was a research fellow and it was my job to research information, collect data, and help turn the data into digestible information that could be used in reports that are published for anyone to read. My role also assisted the organization's president in being able to give speeches at different spaces to create change in higher ed. Our audiences included government, schools/colleges, students, parents, donors etc. This important research was rooted in bettering access, persistence and completion rates.

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY CONFLICTS OF INTEREST THAT WOULD PROHIBIT YOU FROM SERVING ON THIS ADVISORY BOARD? IF SO, WHAT ARE THEY?

No, I do not know of any conflicts of interest that would prohibit me from serving on this Advisory Board.

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE POSITION?

The Academic Senate President at my college shared this opportunity with all faculty members at our campus.

POTENTIAL VACANCY CATEGORY

Practitioner

PLEASE DESCRIBE WHY YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD.

Like to be involved because I have a passion for helping our community understand how to access the various opportunities they have in the educational pipeline but also how they can advocate for themselves by leveraging appropriate data and feedback along the way. As a first generation graduate myself, I can sympathize and understand the fear and excitement one as a student and now as a parent in dreaming about the next opportunity. I would be honored to service and provide my personal and professional experience to this worthy cause. Please do not hesitate to reach out if there are any further questions regarding this submission. Thank you.

WHAT COMMUNITIES ARE YOU AFFILIATED WITH THAT WILL BRING VALUE TO THE ADVISORY BOARD (SUCH AS YOUR EXPERIENCE BEING A STUDENT OR TEACHER, OR WITH REGIONALLY FOCUSED WORK)? PLEASE SELECT ALL CATEGORIES THAT APPLY TO YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS, EXPERIENCE, AND/OR WORK.

Practitioner - Private Postsecondary Educational Institutions, Student, Parent/Family Member, Advocacy Organization, Regional Level of Focus of Work - County, Work with Undocumented Student, Veterans, Traditional and non traditional students in the pipeline. Have a passion for research and currently working on the disappearing male in the educational pipeline, etc

ARE YOU AFFILIATED WITH ANY MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS, USER GROUPS, OR AFFINITY GROUPS THAT RELATE TO THE WORK OF C2C? PLEASE ADD THEM HERE

National Association for College Admission Counseling, Western Association for College Admission Counseling, Rocky Mountain Association for College Admission Counseling, Private California College is Possible, Association of Independent California College and Universities

HOW ARE YOU AN AMBASSADOR IN THE COMMUNITY OR COMMUNITIES THAT YOU ENGAGE WITH? HOW COULD YOU SOLICIT INPUT FROM COMMUNITIES OR DRAW FROM YOUR OWN LIVED EXPERIENCE TO SHARE NEEDS AND CONCERNS THAT ARE RELEVANT TO C2C?

My role is the actively seek out opportunities of low hanging fruit to establish and create partnership programs that expose communities and industries to the work of our institution. Being the Director for Diversity, Inclusion, and Outreach is making sure various voices are coming to the table to seek out inclusion and opportunity in all they/we do. My roll is to be the civil engineering that creates bridges with communities for easier access regardless of the topic at hand. I am also currently pursuing my educational doctorate which adds to knowledge of this committee and exposes me to additional tools and resources that may help.

WHAT EXPERIENCE HAVE YOU HAD SUPPORTING AWARENESS OF AND ACCESS TO STUDENT AND EDUCATOR TOOLS, PARTICULARLY REGARDING COLLEGE, CAREER, AND FINANCIAL AID PLANNING?

This is my daily job and responsibility as an admission office for my alma matter but also as an advocate for higher education in general.

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY CONFLICTS OF INTEREST THAT WOULD PROHIBIT YOU FROM SERVING ON THIS ADVISORY BOARD? IF SO, WHAT ARE THEY?

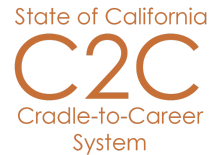
Would need advanced notice of the dates in mind so that I can work around our travel recruitment calendars to be there.

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE POSITION?

Personal Classmate Alexis Takagi

TAKAGI, ALEXIS

STANFORD UNIVERSITY; CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION (CSAC), OUTREACH COORDINATOR; COMMISSIONER



POTENTIAL VACANCY CATEGORY

Student

PLEASE DESCRIBE WHY YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD.

I am passionate about the intersection and execution of intentional research-practitioner partnerships that allow people, communities, and entities to make data-informed decisions that serve the betterment of communities at large. It is imperative that data and resources centered on K-12, higher education, financial aid, and social services that help students reach their goals are widely accessible and can be leveraged to deliver relevant information on educational and workforce outcomes. Previously, I have worked with Stanford and Princeton University as well as the federal reserve bank of Atlanta and Boston, to conduct a nationwide study (called the American Voices Project) that captured a comprehensive portrait of life across the country. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the project shifted to capture the impact of the pandemic on children, young adults, and families specifically examining educational trajectories and how parents coped with their child's education from home during an unprecedented time. Collecting the findings, conducting in-depth interviews with families, and converting the data into consumable pieces of information for the general public and policymakers was incredibly rewarding and ultimately helped numerous families and students navigate their education and vocational paths. The research informed nationwide policy and as well as helped universities adapt to better support their students holistically. The Community Engagement Advisory Board aligns with my passion to make data and tools related to college planning and job outcomes accessible, ensuring actionable information. My background in communication and outreach has given me prior experience to establish strategic, meaningful, and equitable feedback loops utilizing data as a vehicle to develop ongoing dialogues.

WHAT COMMUNITIES ARE YOU AFFILIATED WITH THAT WILL BRING VALUE TO THE ADVISORY BOARD (SUCH AS YOUR EXPERIENCE BEING A STUDENT OR TEACHER, OR WITH REGIONALLY FOCUSED WORK)? PLEASE SELECT ALL CATEGORIES THAT APPLY TO YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS, EXPERIENCE, AND/OR WORK.

Practitioner - K-12, Practitioner - California Community Colleges, Practitioner - Independent Institutions of Higher Education, Practitioner - Private Postsecondary Educational Institutions, Student, Research Organization, Advocacy Organization, Community Organization, Regional Level of Focus of Work - County, Regional Level of Focus of Work - State-wide

ARE YOU AFFILIATED WITH ANY MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS, USER GROUPS, OR AFFINITY GROUPS THAT RELATE TO THE WORK OF C2C? PLEASE ADD THEM HERE

California Student Aid Commission (CSAC); California Alliance of Dual Enrollment Partnerships (CADEP); Santa Clara University's Transfer Student Work Group; Santa Clara University's Undocumented Student Working Group;

Student Association for Graduates in Education (SAGE); Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities' (AICCU)

HOW ARE YOU AN AMBASSADOR IN THE COMMUNITY OR COMMUNITIES THAT YOU ENGAGE WITH? HOW COULD YOU SOLICIT INPUT FROM COMMUNITIES OR DRAW FROM YOUR OWN LIVED EXPERIENCE TO SHARE NEEDS AND CONCERNS THAT ARE RELEVANT TO C2C?

The intersection of my work as a graduate student, a Commissioner on the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC), Outreach Coordinator for Stanford University's School of Engineering, and Graduate Assistant for the Thriving Neighbors program where I mentor high school students who would be the first in their family to attend college and/or undocumented students and work with their families to increase financial literacy (i.e. financial aid) as well as my experiences navigating the high school to college pipeline as a first-generation and California community college transfer student makes me a strong ambassador for the communities that I engage with. I am actively seeking ways to get involved in the communities that I serve by volunteering at local financial aid workshops, supporting community college events, and tutoring and mentoring students. I am currently involved in the transfer student and undocumented workgroup where I collaborate with my colleagues to implement campus-wide policies and advocate for resources for our transfer and undocumented students on campus. Moreover, during the height of the pandemic, I conducted a COVID-19 study examining how students were faring during the pandemic across different institutional types, including community colleges and private non-profit institutions. The study's findings helped universities across California better support their students by addressing their needs which were proven to increase academic success and retention amid virtual (distance) learning. Lastly, I frequently rely on my experiences being a first-generation, low-income, dually enrolled, community college transfer student and reflect on how those identities and experiences impacted my education and secondly, my access to postsecondary education.

WHAT EXPERIENCE HAVE YOU HAD SUPPORTING AWARENESS OF AND ACCESS TO STUDENT AND EDUCATOR TOOLS, PARTICULARLY REGARDING COLLEGE, CAREER, AND FINANCIAL AID PLANNING?

I possess numerous experiences in increasing awareness of and access to student and educator tools. Most recently, I have volunteered at Cash for College workshops across the Bay Area to help students and their family members fill out their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and CA Dream Act Application (CADAA) while incorporating financial literacy pieces throughout the workshop. Outside of the workshops, I also give presentations on financial aid and literacy to high school and undocumented students. With the students that I mentor through the Thriving Neighbors program, where I am paired with high school seniors from underserved communities who would be the first in their families to attend college, I work with students to plan out their college career and walk them and their families through the financial aid process.

Additionally, in 2022, I have served as co-chair of the policy and budget advocacy team in the Independent California Colleges Advocate Program (ICCAP), which represents over 329,000 students attending independent non-profit institutions. Through the program, my cohort and I successfully advocated for a \$25.9 million investment in improvements in the Cal Grant Program for students attending Independent California Colleges and Universities (ICCU), which was adopted into the state budget. From that experience, I have started preparing students across the state interested in advocacy to testify at the Capitol in support of policies that

they are passionate about. I would meet with students to develop their testimonies and give them feedback, so they could deliver strong messages that humanized the issue the policy is trying to address.

Lastly, as a Commissioner for the California Student Aid Commission as the appointed student representative, I have been able to support a myriad of initiatives that have contributed to early and intentional college, career, and financial aid planning that makes higher education more accessible and affordable for every student. My work on the commission gives me hope that postsecondary pursuits do not have to financially burden students or their families and has given me direct insight into the college pipeline and the extent to which the state invests in its students.

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY CONFLICTS OF INTEREST THAT WOULD PROHIBIT YOU FROM SERVING ON THIS ADVISORY BOARD? IF SO, WHAT ARE THEY?

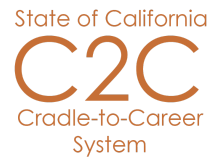
No, I don't have any conflict of interests.

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE POSITION?

Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities; California Student Aid Commission; Twitter

NGUYEN, MIKE

COMMISSIONER AT-LARGE, SANTA CLARA COUNTY YOUTH TASK FORCE COMMISSION, HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE OF THE KING'S ACADEMY; INCOMING FRESHMAN STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY



POTENTIAL VACANCY CATEGORY

Student

PLEASE DESCRIBE WHY YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD.

I genuinely believe a reliable and proper education is the vital key and resource for today's up-and-coming youth to be the next ambitious leaders of our nation.

Serving on this Advisory Board, I would provide an essential youth and student perspective necessary for developing effective feedback loops and important decisions for STUDENTS. I would take advantage of this opportunity to interpret data and raise awareness of the importance of college planning assistance, an issue that still remains overlooked today. My vision is to collaborate with other Board members to evaluate where we analyze data to reach wise conclusions, take immediate action by ensuring that information is accessible, and aid students in one of the most critical educational journeys in their lives. Furthermore, I want to listen and hear out what communities and families believe in and need in this process, as this Cradle-to-Career System will systemically change educational paths for the better. Their opinions, values, and thoughts matter in synthesizing this process; everything must be inclusive to gain insight. This Board would allow me to progressively change this narrative and be a voice for other high school and college students in our state who struggle yet have unheard voices.

As a public speaker, student, aspiring educator, Commissioner, and volunteer, it would be both a great privilege and an honor to serve on the Community Engagement Advisory Board to work hard in dedicating myself to giving back to the education system that has provided so incredibly much for me these past 12 years.

WHAT COMMUNITIES ARE YOU AFFILIATED WITH THAT WILL BRING VALUE TO THE ADVISORY BOARD (SUCH AS YOUR EXPERIENCE BEING A STUDENT OR TEACHER, OR WITH REGIONALLY FOCUSED WORK)? PLEASE SELECT ALL CATEGORIES THAT APPLY TO YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS, EXPERIENCE, AND/OR WORK.

Student, Regional Level of Focus of Work - County

ARE YOU AFFILIATED WITH ANY MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS, USER GROUPS, OR AFFINITY GROUPS THAT RELATE TO THE WORK OF C2C? PLEASE ADD THEM HERE

None, except the Education Subcommittee in Santa Clara County Youth Task Force Commission.

HOW ARE YOU AN AMBASSADOR IN THE COMMUNITY OR COMMUNITIES THAT YOU ENGAGE WITH? HOW COULD YOU SOLICIT INPUT FROM COMMUNITIES OR DRAW FROM YOUR OWN LIVED EXPERIENCE TO SHARE NEEDS AND CONCERNS THAT ARE RELEVANT TO C2C?

In my community, I have had extensive experience advocating for health equity, food security, and voting accessibility from a regional to national scale. Education is an issue I haven't had the chance to advocate for, but I would absolutely dedicate myself to advancing it for good.

In November 2022, I was nominated and appointed by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors to serve as the At-Large Commissioner of the Santa Clara County Youth Task Force to represent 500,000+ county youth. I was then elected Public Relations Officer of the Commission to provide press releases and be the public and government liaison. My work concerns youth-related issues, including health, education, environment, and outreach. It has been significant to survey responses from dozens of youth and author the county's upcoming Youth Bill of Rights to set the standards for education and healthcare and learn from a vast host of speakers on how to improve the overall quality of life for youth.

As a Volunteer Liaison and Speakers Bureau at Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, I have educated over 2,000 volunteers alongside various groups, such as students, churches, teams at Apple, Stanford University's Byers Center for BioDesign, Brown University Alumni, Air Liquide, and VIP donors. I accept every opportunity to educate them about the deep bond and extraordinary impact they, too, can create by getting involved. I also serve as Team Leader, managing large-scale food projects like fruit/vegetable packaging and Amazon Food Rescues, which has resulted in 400,000+ of food being given back to the community.

Continuing in hunger, I am a public servant with and for others. Earning the Gold Zero Hunger Award by The Kroger Company, I was selected (1 of 15 nationwide in a pool of thousands) to join Kroger's National Zero Waste and Hunger Youth Advisory Council in January 2023. As the Representative of California, I have directed the international brand's social impact strategy alongside Kroger executives through philanthropy and sustainability initiatives.

At the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters, I serve as the Student Member on the Language and Voter Accessibility Advisory Committees to fight for accessible voting initiatives. Public testimonies on committees allowed me to step into the shoes of immigrants and senior citizens to enhance methods of transmitting information. The lack of voting accessibility for college students, seniors, the disabled, and non-native English speakers urged me to raise awareness towards promoting programs at universities like Stanford, building partnerships with county departments and public venues like Levi's Stadium/PayPal Park, and connecting community centers, such as places of worship and ethnic grocery stores. Bringing my student perspective to the table, I speak for the youth demographic of my county and highlight the importance of assisting those with disabilities, such as my dad, who has weak hearing.

Lastly, I also serve on the Getting to Zero Young Adult Advisory Board at the Santa Clara County Department of Public Health. I was selected as a youth Board member to collaborate with Public Health officials. I have learned more about statistics and opportunities to curb HIV/STD infection rates in the youth demographic and used this data to develop social media campaigns. I also participated in World AIDS Planning Committee and spoke at San José City Hall on advancing healthcare for people living with HIV, which was featured on ABC7 News Bay Area.

My experiences on Boards are defined by real progress and results. My expertise would provide me the confidence and intuitive mindset to listen to communities or draw from my own lived experience, especially since I just completed the college and financial aid applications this past year.

I would be open and inclusive to all community members and sincerely ask for their input at every step to ensure that no voice is left behind because every opinion matters when developing this tool that will impact future generations. I would ask my community at UC Berkeley, the Santa Clara County Office of Education and consistently find new methods of reaching out to youth to see where I can make a difference.

As a first-generation college student, I struggled to write essays, submit the FAFSA and CSS Profile, navigate Naviance and the UC/CSU application systems, select majors, and endlessly wonder where my future would take me with my grades and dreams. However, I know deep down that this inhumane and excruciating process does not have to be this way at all. The Cradle-to-Care System is miles ahead, and I would appreciate bringing my fresh experience as a student to the table. I have dozens of issues and ideas to touch on, from transcript cost barriers, application fees, GPA data graphs, career and life guidance, and financial aid application assistance. The list is endless, and I am confident I can contribute to the Board to make a positive difference to give students the peace of mind they need when thinking about their educational and life journeys.

WHAT EXPERIENCE HAVE YOU HAD SUPPORTING AWARENESS OF AND ACCESS TO STUDENT AND EDUCATOR TOOLS, PARTICULARLY REGARDING COLLEGE, CAREER, AND FINANCIAL AID PLANNING?

To be completely transparent and honest, I'm a student, not a super experienced college counselor or teacher, but I have been through this process this past year.

College, career, and financial aid are fascinating concepts that I have dealt with head-on, but students still need the proper support to seek higher education.

At school, I discovered the accessible features of the UC and CSU college applications, which require no physical transcripts and teachers' recommendations for maximum equity. I have been bombarded with many difficult-to-understand questions on the FAFSA and CSS Profile. I have chosen to be Test-Optional (Application without SAT or ACT) in colleges on the Common Application system, which remains a disadvantage for students who apply without test scores. I have squabbled in and out of my high school counselor's office, looking for career advice and college recommendations, which Naviance does a decent job at doing.

As a Cradle-to-Career Community Engagement Advisory Board member, I would immediately work with the Committee to evaluate effective methods of reaching out to districts, classrooms, counselors, teachers, and social workers on how to better increase the level of college, career, and financial aid planning available and make this process more seamless so any student can navigate it with success. It is my high ambition to make a difference in the lives of students and educators so they can be knowledgeable about the resources available to them and use them to reach their goals. Their understanding and viewing of curated college lists, income brackets, selected majors and careers, and student advice can change the game and give students the path to rise to their full potential. I promise to learn and do all it takes to raise awareness of this influential cause of educational data and assist others in any way I can to help them understand and apply it in their own lives.

Do you know of any conflicts of interest that would prohibit you from serving on this Advisory Board? If so, what are they?

I can confirm that I do not have any conflicts of interest that pertain to this Advisory Board.

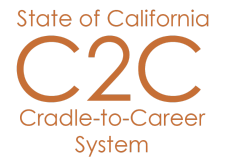
How did you hear about the position?

During our May Youth Task Force, Meredith Curry, Community Engagement Advisory Board Member, delivered an educational presentation on California Cradle to Career Data System and announced they were recruiting new members and students were eligible to apply.

Runner Up Applications

KHOSRAVI, PARSHAN

UASPIRE, CA POLICY DIRECTOR



POTENTIAL VACANCY CATEGORY

Advocacy

PLEASE DESCRIBE WHY YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD.

I believe that the of cradle-to-career data system and its mission has the potential to fundamentally change our lives for the better and allow us to create a data-backed ecosystem that can truly transform how we think about and approach education, health and well-being, and community empowerment. I have always maintained my belief in the vision of C2C since the day Governor Newsom (then candidate Newsom) first announced it as a part of his platform for California. Nevertheless, despite its vast potential, C2C needs to invest its resources in gauging community stakeholders in its work, because the data system and its work is only as good and comprehensive as the communities that are vested in it and tied to it.

A state-of-the-art data system is of no use if nobody in the community knows how to use it or has any way to utilize it. Furthermore, an inclusive and comprehensive data system needs to recognize the evolving state of community needs and issues and evolve itself along with it. That is why we need to have strong tie-in with the community stakeholders and regularly engage with them to keep C2C and the governing board's efforts informed of their needs and perspectives.

That is where I believe I can be an asset to the advisory board. I bring with me over a decade of experience engaging with community stakeholders around education issues, especially in the higher education segments. I have had extensive experience working with the various student associations and constituency groups such as student parents, undocumented students, system-impacted students, and foster youth. I have also had extensive experience working with the basic needs community, collaborating with CHEBNA and various basic needs resource providers and advocates on a number of issues.

Finally, in my current work, I lead a statewide coalition of organizations working with students and families across California to increase financial aid application and completion rates. Through our work over the past year, we have been able to increase FAFSA/CADAA completion rate by over 17%. I believe I have the tools and the network necessary to help C2C similarly expand its reach and connection with communities on the ground.

WHAT COMMUNITIES ARE YOU AFFILIATED WITH THAT WILL BRING VALUE TO THE ADVISORY BOARD (SUCH AS YOUR EXPERIENCE BEING A STUDENT OR TEACHER, OR WITH REGIONALLY FOCUSED WORK)? PLEASE SELECT ALL CATEGORIES THAT APPLY TO YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS, EXPERIENCE, AND/OR WORK.

Student, Research Organization, Advocacy Organization, Regional Level of Focus of Work - State-wide

ARE YOU AFFILIATED WITH ANY MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS, USER GROUPS, OR AFFINITY GROUPS THAT RELATE TO THE WORK OF C2C? PLEASE ADD THEM HERE

Yes! I am affiliated with the Northern California College Promise Coalition (NCCPC) and serve as the policy committee co-chair for the coalition.

HOW ARE YOU AN AMBASSADOR IN THE COMMUNITY OR COMMUNITIES THAT YOU ENGAGE WITH? HOW COULD YOU SOLICIT INPUT FROM COMMUNITIES OR DRAW FROM YOUR OWN LIVED EXPERIENCE TO SHARE NEEDS AND CONCERNS THAT ARE RELEVANT TO C2C?

Over the past several years, and thanks to the nature of my work as an education advocate especially during the pandemic, I have built a strong network of resource providers and practitioners across California's higher education systems. These include basic needs providers, student parent networks, foster youth and system-impacted student resource centers, outreach and recruitment program directors, and financial aid officers.

Each of these constituencies have their own networks among themselves (for example, the basic needs resource providers meet on a quarterly basis at the UC system) to discuss issues and best practices. I have been able to build a relationship with many of these networks and join their convenings as needed to discuss issues pertinent to their work. If and when need be, I believe I can place a discussion/input solicitation session with these networks.

Furthermore, because of my long-standing relationship with many of these resource providers, I am often reached out to by these communities when they experience issues or concerns that needs policy intervention. As such, I am regularly tapped in with these networks and kept up-to-date about their needs.

WHAT EXPERIENCE HAVE YOU HAD SUPPORTING AWARENESS OF AND ACCESS TO STUDENT AND EDUCATOR TOOLS, PARTICULARLY REGARDING COLLEGE, CAREER, AND FINANCIAL AID PLANNING?

As a former staff for a statewide student association, I have extensive experience with implementation efforts and awareness campaigns targeted at students. I have a strong relationship with all higher education student associations in California: UCSA, CSSA, SSSCC, and ICCAP, and have worked with them on a number of awareness efforts and campaigns including the FAFSA/CADAA efforts, Scholarship displacement issues, and transfer pathways. In addition, I currently serve as the policy committee lead for the CA Undocumented Higher Ed Coalition, where we work on information dissemination and advocacy efforts to support undocumented students and their families across California. That is a constituency group that I have extensive ties with, both in the community and with organizations and CBOs working with the community.

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY CONFLICTS OF INTEREST THAT WOULD PROHIBIT YOU FROM SERVING ON THIS ADVISORY BOARD? IF SO, WHAT ARE THEY?

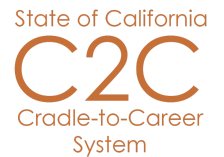
N/A

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE POSITION?

I was referred to this opportunity through one of the board members, Meredith Curry Nuñez.

GOEL, ADITI

P16 PARTNERS, INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT



POTENTIAL VACANCY CATEGORY

Community

PLEASE DESCRIBE WHY YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD.

I'm a parent of two school-aged daughters and have worked across the education sector for over 20 years. I believe that systems change and impact only happens effectively when broad, diverse, representative voices are at the table to learn, push back, dialogue and debate and help move work forward. I want to contribute my lived and learned experiences and expertise to this advisory board on behalf of California's students, families and school communities.

WHAT COMMUNITIES ARE YOU AFFILIATED WITH THAT WILL BRING VALUE TO THE ADVISORY BOARD (SUCH AS YOUR EXPERIENCE BEING A STUDENT OR TEACHER, OR WITH REGIONALLY FOCUSED WORK)? PLEASE SELECT ALL CATEGORIES THAT APPLY TO YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS, EXPERIENCE, AND/OR WORK.

Parent/Family Member, Research Organization, Community Organization, Regional Level of Focus of Work - State-wide, Regional Level of Focus of Work - Other [Describe], Work with funders, nonprofit orgs, and schools; on the Board of school-focused orgs

ARE YOU AFFILIATED WITH ANY MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS, USER GROUPS, OR AFFINITY GROUPS THAT RELATE TO THE WORK OF C2C? PLEASE ADD THEM HERE

Board Member of Teach for America-Bay Area, former employee of WestEd/SVLG

HOW ARE YOU AN AMBASSADOR IN THE COMMUNITY OR COMMUNITIES THAT YOU ENGAGE WITH? HOW COULD YOU SOLICIT INPUT FROM COMMUNITIES OR DRAW FROM YOUR OWN LIVED EXPERIENCE TO SHARE NEEDS AND CONCERNS THAT ARE RELEVANT TO C2C?

I am an active community member. I've volunteered as a Board Member for our local school district foundation and am currently active in my kids' school community as well. I use my experiences living in the town next to where I grew up and attended K-12 public schools to share information about school events/information - I email friends and neighbors, post on social media, and answer questions and point folks to resources when I can.

As a woman of color born and raised in the Bay Area and raising my two girls here - and working in education - it's important to me to see that more students have the opportunity to thrive and learn in school, graduate and be prepared to pursue postsecondary pathways. We're not there yet and I want to engage in initiatives like C2C that work within and outside of the system to bring more engagement, voices and feedback into the work.

WHAT EXPERIENCE HAVE YOU HAD SUPPORTING AWARENESS OF AND ACCESS TO STUDENT AND EDUCATOR TOOLS, PARTICULARLY REGARDING COLLEGE, CAREER, AND FINANCIAL AID PLANNING?

I work with CEOs & EDs of college access and success organization, I advise funders who grantmake in this space, and I lead networks of leaders whose organizations serve in this space.

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY CONFLICTS OF INTEREST THAT WOULD PROHIBIT YOU FROM SERVING ON THIS ADVISORY BOARD? IF SO, WHAT ARE THEY?

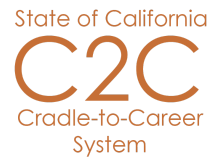
No

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE POSITION?

Email from colleagues

ALDERSON, JEWYL

SAN DIEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION, COORDINATOR, CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION - SUPPORTING CAREER READINESS



POTENTIAL VACANCY CATEGORY

Practitioner

PLEASE DESCRIBE WHY YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD.

My role is to support districts in developing programs focused on ensuring students are future ready. I navigate the California School Dashboard, labor market information from our workforce development board, other student data systems, grant reporting systems. local objectives, and community college priorities in order to support districts in making decisions around program development. The Cradle-to-Career system ties into the work that I do at many levels, and I support many of the stakeholder groups it is being designed to serve. I believe strongly in the opportunity to build systems to improve economic mobility in our state through career education, and this data infrastructure is key to measuring and scaling progress.

WHAT COMMUNITIES ARE YOU AFFILIATED WITH THAT WILL BRING VALUE TO THE ADVISORY BOARD (SUCH AS YOUR EXPERIENCE BEING A STUDENT OR TEACHER, OR WITH REGIONALLY FOCUSED WORK)? PLEASE SELECT ALL CATEGORIES THAT APPLY TO YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS, EXPERIENCE, AND/OR WORK.

Practitioner - K-12, Practitioner - California Community Colleges, Practitioner - Workforce Development, Advocacy Organization, Regional Level of Focus of Work - County

ARE YOU AFFILIATED WITH ANY MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS, USER GROUPS, OR AFFINITY GROUPS THAT RELATE TO THE WORK OF C2C? PLEASE ADD THEM HERE

ACTE (Association for Career and Technical Education)

HOW ARE YOU AN AMBASSADOR IN THE COMMUNITY OR COMMUNITIES THAT YOU ENGAGE WITH? HOW COULD YOU SOLICIT INPUT FROM COMMUNITIES OR DRAW FROM YOUR OWN LIVED EXPERIENCE TO SHARE NEEDS AND CONCERNS THAT ARE RELEVANT TO C2C?

I build capacity in educators across San Diego County and the State of California in using data to improve future ready opportunities for our students. I run workshops on using equity data from the California School Dashboard and other data sources to help LEAs set goals and access more funds to continue this work. I have a large network both in San Diego and in the state wide network I run of CTE practitioners at other County Offices of Education that I can leverage to solicit input and share information on this project. I partner closely with our community colleges and workforce development board and can also gain insight from their experience. The work I have done to impact the state resulted in me being named the California ACTE Administrator of the Year earlier this spring, and I will be happy to use these networks to progress the work of creating a statewide data system.

WHAT EXPERIENCE HAVE YOU HAD SUPPORTING AWARENESS OF AND ACCESS TO STUDENT AND EDUCATOR TOOLS, PARTICULARLY REGARDING COLLEGE, CAREER, AND FINANCIAL AID PLANNING?

I run workshops for districts, for counselors, for teachers, for administrators and others that build capacity for the use of data to set goals, run programs and support students in their trajectory for the future. I am well versed in the California School Dashboard and have provided differentiated assistance (accountability support) to help LEAs dig into their data and identify root causes and opportunities for change and growth. I work with individuals, schools, districts and regions on the use of data regarding college and career. I work with both the community college center of excellence and our workforce development board, the San Diego Workforce Partnership on ways to incorporate labor market information into K12 decision making. I have also worked with our counseling coordinator to better inform and support increased FAFSA completion percentages across our region. I am passionate about the way we can use data to inform and impact our system and ensure more students have opportunities to be prepared for college, career and economic mobility.

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY CONFLICTS OF INTEREST THAT WOULD PROHIBIT YOU FROM SERVING ON THIS ADVISORY BOARD? IF SO, WHAT ARE THEY?

No

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE POSITION?

I am on your email list and have attended C2C meetings in the past.

MEHTA, RENAY SEHGAL

CHINO VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, DIRECTOR OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



POTENTIAL VACANCY CATEGORY

Practitioner

PLEASE DESCRIBE WHY YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD.

By joining the Cradle-to-Career Advisory Board, I can bring unique insights and experiences, ensuring comprehensive representation and inclusive decision-making. My expertise in supporting community engagement through data analysis and user-friendly tools can greatly enhance the accessibility and effectiveness of C2C's resources. As an ambassador to specific groups, I can advocate for their needs and ensure resource alignment. With my familiarity in K-12, community colleges, universities, teachers, and workforce development, I can provide valuable insights for educational strategies. I excel in creating sustainable partnerships and making information relatable, bridging understanding gaps and engaging stakeholders. I am committed to actively participating in board activities and gathering community input. My workforce development and community engagement experience at the Chino Valley Chamber brings unique perspectives to the board. I genuinely want to contribute my skills and expertise to resource development, address community needs, and collaborate with diverse individuals for effective solutions within the Cradle-to-Career system.

WHAT COMMUNITIES ARE YOU AFFILIATED WITH THAT WILL BRING VALUE TO THE ADVISORY BOARD (SUCH AS YOUR EXPERIENCE BEING A STUDENT OR TEACHER, OR WITH REGIONALLY FOCUSED WORK)? PLEASE SELECT ALL CATEGORIES THAT APPLY TO YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS, EXPERIENCE, AND/OR WORK.

Practitioner - Early Learning, Practitioner - K-12, Practitioner - California Community Colleges, Practitioner - Workforce Development, Student, Parent/Family Member, Advocacy Organization, Community Organization, Regional Level of Focus of Work - County, Regional Level of Focus of Work - State-wide

ARE YOU AFFILIATED WITH ANY MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS, USER GROUPS, OR AFFINITY GROUPS THAT RELATE TO THE WORK OF C2C? PLEASE ADD THEM HERE

California Community Colleges, California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, and San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools.

HOW ARE YOU AN AMBASSADOR IN THE COMMUNITY OR COMMUNITIES THAT YOU ENGAGE WITH? HOW COULD YOU SOLICIT INPUT FROM COMMUNITIES OR DRAW FROM YOUR OWN LIVED EXPERIENCE TO SHARE NEEDS AND CONCERNS THAT ARE RELEVANT TO C2C?

As the Workforce Development Director for the Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce, I actively engage with the community as an ambassador in several ways. I oversee job fairs, career expos, and job boards, addressing

ongoing workforce challenges in the region. Additionally, I collaborate with the Chino Valley Unified School District, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, and Inland Economic Growth and Opportunity Steering Community to establish sustainable career pathways for high school students through strategic partnerships with businesses, industry partners, and educational institutions.

My role allows me to connect with job seekers and individuals affected by workforce challenges. Through my interactions and engagement, I gain valuable insights into their needs and concerns, drawing from my own lived experience in the field. I understand the importance of incorporating diverse perspectives and sharing relevant concerns with the Cradle-to-Career (C2C) initiative.

With a passion for community engagement and representation, I actively work with organizations and individuals to promote the well-being and growth of the Inland Empire region. This involvement enables me to effectively represent the voices and interests of the community within the C2C framework. My dedication to creating opportunities for youth career development and implementing robust programs aligns with the mission and goals of C2C.

Overall, my experience as an ambassador in the community, along with my ability to gather input and share relevant needs and concerns, positions me well to contribute meaningfully to the C2C initiative.

WHAT EXPERIENCE HAVE YOU HAD SUPPORTING AWARENESS OF AND ACCESS TO STUDENT AND EDUCATOR TOOLS, PARTICULARLY REGARDING COLLEGE, CAREER, AND FINANCIAL AID PLANNING?

As the Workforce Development Director for the Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce, I actively support student and educator tools in college, career, and financial aid planning. I oversee job fairs, career expos, and job boards, connecting students and educators with relevant resources.

Collaborating with the Chino Valley Unified School District, I create sustainable career pathways for high school students by partnering with businesses, industry experts, and educational institutions. Through these partnerships, I provide access to tools and resources that help students plan for college and careers. By fostering these connections, I raise awareness of opportunities and equip educators with the necessary tools for guidance.

My dedication to community engagement and representation drives me to work with organizations and individuals, promoting the well-being and growth of the Inland Empire region. I actively contribute to youth career development through initiatives like Upskill Chino Valley, which focuses on workforce development and career pathways.

In summary, my role as the Workforce Development Director, overseeing job fairs and career expos, and collaborating with educational institutions showcases my commitment to supporting student and educator tools in college, career, and financial aid planning.

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY CONFLICTS OF INTEREST THAT WOULD PROHIBIT YOU FROM SERVING ON THIS ADVISORY BOARD? IF SO, WHAT ARE THEY?

No conflicts of interest.

How Did You Hear About The Position?

Cradle to Career LinkedIn Page

POTENTIAL VACANCY CATEGORY

Student

PLEASE DESCRIBE WHY YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD.

I would like to join the Community Engagement Advisory Board as a youth representative because I believe I can provide valuable insights by examining the education system through a youth lens. Having personally experienced the benefits of a good education, I understand what more I have gained and therefore, the importance of equitable access and opportunities for all students. Through my involvement in my county's Youth Task Force, I have encountered students who lack motivation or face financial barriers that prevent them from accessing the same opportunities as individuals in my own community. As a member of the advisory board, I aim to contribute to the development of planning and application tools that can streamline the college and financial aid processes while also monitoring student progress. Having personally navigated these systems and faced the challenges associated with seeking guidance from counselors and other professionals, I can bring a unique perspective to the board. I am eager to collaborate with others and help devise strategies to support those who cannot afford the same resources, ensuring that every student has a fair chance at success in their educational journey.

WHAT COMMUNITIES ARE YOU AFFILIATED WITH THAT WILL BRING VALUE TO THE ADVISORY BOARD (SUCH AS YOUR EXPERIENCE BEING A STUDENT OR TEACHER, OR WITH REGIONALLY FOCUSED WORK)? PLEASE SELECT ALL CATEGORIES THAT APPLY TO YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS, EXPERIENCE, AND/OR WORK.

Student, Regional Level of Focus of Work - County

ARE YOU AFFILIATED WITH ANY MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS, USER GROUPS, OR AFFINITY GROUPS THAT RELATE TO THE WORK OF C2C? PLEASE ADD THEM HERE

Santa Clara County's Youth Task Force: Co-Chair, Founder of the Gender Equity Sub-Committee

- Chosen to be on the force composed of 15 individuals, appointed by Supervisor Simitian for District 5
- Was tasked to find solutions and develop policies to solve issues such as foster youth, LGBTQ issues, and youth education, specifically focuses on violence against women as the lead of the subcommittee

Santa Clara County's Children and Youth Bill of Rights Drafting Team, Member

- Serve as sole youth representative from the Youth Task Force to meet once a month
- Review responses from youth groups, interviews, and surveys to summarize, consolidate and organize responses into the updated version of Santa Clara County's Children and Youth Bill of Rights

Previously served on Saratoga High School's Superintendent's Advisory Board

HOW ARE YOU AN AMBASSADOR IN THE COMMUNITY OR COMMUNITIES THAT YOU ENGAGE WITH? HOW COULD YOU SOLICIT INPUT FROM COMMUNITIES OR DRAW FROM YOUR OWN LIVED EXPERIENCE TO SHARE NEEDS AND CONCERNS THAT ARE RELEVANT TO C2C?

As an ambassador within the communities I engage, my unwavering commitment lies in advocating for the concerns of these communities, particularly emphasizing the importance of amplifying the youth voices. I firmly believe that youth possess valuable insights and perspectives that are often overlooked or undervalued. Regrettably, I have observed a trend where youth input is merely acknowledged without truly being earnestly considered. It is this disheartening reality that has compelled me to work towards ensuring that the voices of youth resonate at policy-making tables. As a co-chair of the Santa Clara County's Youth Task Force, I actively engage with the youth of my community, listen to their needs, and collaborate on developing minor policy proposals and collaborative events. Through my role as the Outreach Coordinator for March For Our Lives, I plan events and raise awareness about gun violence while amplifying the voices of students, teachers, and community members. Additionally, my involvement in AMP Global Scholar has provided a global perspective and honed my advocacy skills, and the current State of the Global Youth Report research we are holding is all about gathering data regarding youth and trying to propose solutions that amplify youth. Drawing from my own lived experiences, especially those in school and with youth which is the demographic C2C is trying to help, I share firsthand accounts of challenges and barriers faced by individuals.

WHAT EXPERIENCE HAVE YOU HAD SUPPORTING AWARENESS OF AND ACCESS TO STUDENT AND EDUCATOR TOOLS, PARTICULARLY REGARDING COLLEGE, CAREER, AND FINANCIAL AID PLANNING?

I have actively worked towards spreading awareness pertaining to college, career, and financial aid planning within the school setting. I have collaborated with teachers to try to engage students in different programs and opportunities. Additionally, as a member of the Youth Task Force, we are currently discussing education, especially in our Education ad-hoc subcommittee, improving awareness and access to student and educator tools related to college, career, and financial aid planning.

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY CONFLICTS OF INTEREST THAT WOULD PROHIBIT YOU FROM SERVING ON THIS ADVISORY BOARD? IF SO, WHAT ARE THEY?

None as of now

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE POSITION?

Through Meredith Curry who came to present to the Youth Task Force of Santa Clara County.