

Cradle-to-Career Data Governing Board Staff Report

Date Report Issued: July 31, 2024
Date Report Modified: August 7, 2024
Attention: Members of Cradle-to-Career Data Governing Board
Subject: **Data and Tools and Community Engagement Advisory Boards Slated Candidates**
Staff Contact: Marykate Cruz Jones, Chief of Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships

At this meeting, the Governing Board (Board) will have the opportunity to approve the Data and Tools and Community Engagement Advisory Board candidates that were slated by the Selection for Advisory Boards Committee (Committee).

Requested Action:

After review and consideration of the slating of candidates for the Data and Tools and Community Engagement Advisory Boards, Staff recommends that the Board approve the slated candidates as presented by the Committee.

- ❖ Move to approve the proposed candidates and runners up for the Data and Tools Advisory Board as specified in the staff report.
- ❖ Move to approve the proposed candidates and runners up for the Community Engagement Advisory Board as specified in the staff report.

Background:

At the February 28, 2024 Board meeting, the Committee [charter](#) was approved, and five Board members were designated to form the Committee. Their role was to finalize selection and recruitment materials and to identify a candidate pool for approval by the Board. Member Payne, was Chair of this Committee and Governing Board members Gonzalez-Vasquez, Romero, Ohanian, and Vu also served on this Committee.

April 12, 2024 Committee Meeting:

As the Data and Tools Advisory Board and Community Engagement Advisory Board face vacancies, the Committee met on April 12 to approve and provide input on the application, rubric, and selection process plan. In addition, the Committee deliberated on the ideal populations for appointment and prioritization of future candidate categories for Advisory Boards. The 2024 Advisory Boards application forms were posted on the Cradle-to-Career Data's (C2C) website from April 29, 2024 through May 17, 2024.

June 27, 2024 Committee Meeting:

When the applications closed, the Committee reviewed and scored each application against the Committee approved rubric. Multiple Committee members read and scored each application. The Committee convened on June 27 to discuss potential slates for each Advisory Board and rank-ordered runner up candidates. The approved ideal populations for appointment that were identified at the initial Committee meeting were taken into consideration during the slating process.

Data and Tools Advisory Board:

[Education Code Section 10865](#) specifies that the Data and Tools Advisory Board holds responsibility for “examining whether the data system is providing actionable information and identifying ways to improve access to that information”. The Data and Tools Advisory Board consists of 16 public members appointed by the Governing Board. More information about the current composition of the Data and Tools Advisory Board can be found in Attachment A.

In total, the Office of Cradle-to-Career Data (Office) received 28¹ [applications](#) for five impending Data and Tools Advisory Board vacancies. When the Committee prioritized candidates, they reviewed all applications; utilized the [scoring rubric](#), which defines the criteria used for scoring the applications; and read [letters of support](#). To facilitate the Committee's decision making, the Office organized the applications by category². There were three advocacy/community applications and 25 practitioner/researcher applications.

Data and Tools Recommended Slating:

During the June 27th meeting, the Committee met and approved five candidates shown below to the Data and Tools Advisory Board; however, on August 7, the Office received confirmation from a slated applicant that they are not a California resident. In the [Advisory Board application](#) under membership and terms it is noted that, “[a]dvisory Board members must be California residents” (pg. 8). As a result, one of the slated applicants, shown below, is not eligible to serve on the Data and Tools Advisory Board. In order to ensure that the five vacancies are filled, the first ranked runner up selected by the Committee was moved to a proposed candidate for appointment to the Data and Tools Advisory Board.

Applicant Name	Category	Organization
Lauren Reed	Advocacy	Oakland Promise

¹ The Office received an additional application that was not reviewed by the Committee. The [Governance Manual](#) outlines, a person who works for an organization or person represented on the Governing Board may not be selected to serve on an Advisory Board. An organization is defined as a state agency or representative of a segment, as opposed to providers that report to an agency.

² The student category was reserved for any applicants in high school or college. There were two applicants that disclosed they were students, obtaining a doctoral degree or taking an educational course for teaching. These individuals were placed in the practitioner/researcher category and are represented with an asterisk next to their name, to indicate they also identify as students.

Iulia Tarasova	Practitioner	City of Roseville
Daniel Millán	Researcher	City of Los Angeles, Youth Development Department
John Watson	Practitioner	San Diego County Office of Education
Myrtha Ortiz Villar	Community	Students Rising Above
Ellie Bruecker	Researcher	The Institute for College Access & Success

Data and Tools Recommended Runner Up Slating:

The Committee also approved the following candidates as runners up to the Data and Tools Advisory Board, in the order reflected below. *As there were only five positions available for runners up, the [sixth place runner up](#) was not slated by the Committee on June 27th. However, with this shift in slating noted above, the first ranked runner up has been moved as a slated candidate for appointment to the Data and Tools Advisory Board, creating a vacancy in the runner up category. The sixth place runner up applicant has been moved to fill the vacancy.*

Applicant Name	Category	Organization
#1 Myrtha Ortiz Villar	Community	Students Rising Above
#12 Caroline Durdella	Practitioner	Rio Hondo Community College District, Academic Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness
#23 Alex Nottbohm-Popelka	Researcher	Regional K16 Education Collaboratives Grant Program
#34 Carlos Rodriguez	Practitioner	Los Angeles Unified School District, Division of Adult and Career

		Education
#45 Tammy Pham*	Practitioner	Environmental Charter Middle Schools & 23-24 Teach Plus CA Policy Fellow
#5 Josh Sussman	Researcher	University of California, Berkeley

Community Engagement Advisory Board:

[Education Code Section 10865](#) specifies that the Community Engagement Advisory Board holds “responsibility for examining whether the managing entity is creating strong feedback loops with data users, supporting evidence-based decision-making and analytical capacity, and ensuring equitable access to actionable information”. The Community Engagement Advisory Board consists of 16 public members appointed by the Governing Board. More information about the current composition of the Community Engagement Advisory Board can be found in Attachment B.

In total, the Office received 38³ [applications](#) for four impending Community Engagement Advisory Board vacancies. When the Committee prioritized candidates, they reviewed all applications; utilized the [scoring rubric](#), which defines the criteria used for scoring the applications; and read the [letters of support](#). To facilitate the Committee’s decision making, the Office organized the applications by category⁴. There were six advocacy applications, six community applications, 22 practitioner applications, and four student applications.

³ The Office received an additional application that was not reviewed by the Committee. The [Governance Manual](#) outlines, a person who works for an organization or person represented on the Governing Board may not be selected to serve on an Advisory Board. An organization is defined as a state agency or representative of a segment, as opposed to providers that report to an agency.

⁴ The student category was reserved for any applicants in high school or college. There were five applicants that disclosed they were students, obtaining a graduate or doctoral degree or in an apprentice program. One individual was placed in the community category and four individuals were placed in the practitioner category. They are represented with an asterisk next to their name to indicate they also identify as students.

Community Engagement Recommended Slating:

During the June 27th meeting, the Committee approved the following candidates shown below to the Community Engagement Advisory Board.

Applicant Name	Category	Organization
Dar'rell Jones	Advocacy	Blu Educational Foundation
Lisa Countryman	Community	Jewish Vocational Service
Natalia Gonzalez*	Community	Riverside County Office of Education
Scott Aseltine*	Practitioner	Karuk Tribe

The Committee also approved the following candidates as runners up to the Community Engagement Advisory Board, in the order reflected below.

Applicant Name	Category	Organization
#1 Marisa Johnson	Advocacy	Campaign for College Opportunity
#2 Pang Vangyi	Practitioner	State Center Adult Education Consortium
#3 Cristian Reyes	Student	Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
#4 Anushka Tadikonda	Student	Junior in High School

Members Terming Out in 2024:

Marshall Anthony Jr. (Advocacy Organization)



Dr. Marshall Anthony Jr. is the Director of Policy and Impact at Chegg, Inc., where he manages Chegg's Center for Digital Learning as well as the company's social impact arm, Chegg.org. For nearly 15 years, Marshall's personal and professional mission has aimed to maximize the educational and socioeconomic mobility of historically marginalized communities. He has published for various public, policy, and academic audiences. Marshall's work and commentary has been featured in multi-media outlets, such as About Campus, Al Jazeera, Axios, CNN, Diverse Issues in Higher

Education, Higher Ed Dive, Higher Education Today, Inside Higher Ed, NBC News, NerdWallet, Politico, RealClearEducation, SiriusXM, The Associated Press, The Chronicle of Higher Education, The Hechinger Report, The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education, and U.S. News & World Report. Recently, Dr. Anthony served as the Research Director at the Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS). He holds a Ph.D. in higher education (public policy) from Florida State University, a master's degree in higher education administration, graduate certificate in teaching, training and educational technology, bachelor's degree in business administration, and minors in accounting and Spanish from North Carolina State University.

Lisa Chavez (Community Organization)



Lisa Chavez is the Director of the Office of Research and Institutional Accountability at the State Bar of California. She has developed and led quantitative research initiatives for academic, non-profit, and public agencies such as EdSource, WestEd, San Francisco Unified School District, and the Warren Institute on Law and Social Policy at Berkeley Law School. Lisa has researched access to the University of California, Latino community college transfer students, school discipline, federal school accountability for English learners, immigration enforcement, and school integration. She has also lectured in the Chicano/Ethnic Studies department at UC Berkeley,

teaching an upper-division undergraduate course, "Chicanos and the Education System." The common thread throughout her career has been her deep passion for promoting social justice through research and advocacy and partnering with executives, leaders, and team members to ensure research products have maximum social impact. A first-generation college graduate, Lisa earned her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from UC Santa Cruz and her Master's degree and Ph.D. in Sociology from UC Berkeley.

Khathy Hoang (Community Organization)



Khathy Hoang is the Managing Operations Officer for the Adventist Health White Memorial Charitable Foundation with a mission of inspiring health, wholeness and hope through Philanthropy and Healthcare Workforce Development. Formerly the Associate Vice President of Community Impact & Development for the YMCA of Metropolitan of Los Angeles, Khathy supported the implementation of the Cradle to Career Success & Well-Being Initiative, including the programmatic, evaluative, and foundation, government, corporate and other resource garnering efforts for the organization's nearly 30 locations throughout Southern California. Khathy holds a

Master's degree in Community Public Health (California State University, Northridge) and Bachelor's degree from the University of California Los Angeles. Ms. Hoang also served on the

State Bar of California's Closing the Justice Gap Working Group and has served in other leadership roles for different community organizations. Khathy continues to be an advocate and leader of and for diversity, equity, and inclusion in healthcare, education, and civic engagement in a lifelong commitment to serve our community and future leaders.

Brendan Livingston (Practitioner)



Brendan Livingston is the director of Enrollment Management Analytics at UC Davis. The analytics office provides critical research, projections and recommendations to campus leadership on enrollment issues. He has over 15 years of experience in higher education, including seven years as a data scientist for Enrollment Management. Prior to his work in higher education, he worked as an economist at the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in Washington, DC. Brendan earned a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Economics from the University of Arizona and a Bachelor of Arts in

Economics from Lewis and Clark College in Portland Oregon.

Jennifer Orlick (Practitioner)



My name is Jennifer Orlick and I am currently the Director of Strategy, Accountability, and Innovation at the Campbell Union High School District. I have worked in K-12 education primarily in research and accountability roles for over a decade and started my career in education teaching English with the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program. My alma maters are the University of California at Santa Cruz, where I completed my undergraduate studies, and the University of Southern California, where I earned a Master of Public Policy.

Members Terming Out in 2025:

Jason Borgen (Practitioner)



Jason is leading Technology, Innovation, Data Systems, and Computer Science Education at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education as the Chief Technology & Innovations Officer. Jason has worked in the K-12 environment for over 20 years--First as a teacher focused on creating an environment beyond brick and mortar learning. Jason spent many years following by supporting school administrators across California with effective ways to leverage technology to lead 21st century schools as part of the statewide Technology Information Center for Administrative Leadership (TICAL)

project as well training teachers in transformative practices in their classroom. Jason spent 3-years in leading curriculum and technology programs in a small school district in the Silicon Valley. He is former president of the Board of CUE, INC. Board of Directors – a non-profit focused on inspiring innovation in education and currently is chair of the Data sub-committee of of Santa Cruz County DataShare – a multiagency collaborative focused on data literacy and supporting data elements aligned to equity initiatives.

Tamika Connor (Practitioner)



Tamika is a doctoral candidate with expertise focused on online education. She serves as the Senior Vice President/Accreditation Liaison Officer at Calbright College and a Core Project Team Member of the California Community College's State Chancellor's Office Strategic Enrollment Management Community of Practice, where she uses evidence-based, data-informed, innovative strategies to implement new practices and policies to increase equitable student outcomes. She previously served as Assistant Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management (Interim),

Department Chair, and Tenured Faculty at the Peralta Community College

District/Laney College and was the Adult Education Director for the Chabot/Las Positas Community College District - Mid Alameda County Adult Education Consortium. Tamikas has a strong background in building sustainable partnerships with higher education institutions, community-based organizations, the workforce industry, and local government agencies. Her post-secondary education work includes private and public colleges (e.g., Stanford University, Santa Clara University, and California Community Colleges). She has a broad range of academic experience, including non-credit and dual enrollment programs, credit for prior learning, competency-based education, student onboarding, skills-based hiring, and equity-aligned initiatives such as AB928, AB19, the student-centered funding formula, Student Equity and Achievement Plan, and Guided Pathways.

Regan Foust (Research Organization)



Regan Foust, PhD is the Executive Director and Senior Research Scientist at the [Children's Data Network](#) at the University of Southern California. As ED of the single largest set of linked administrative records concerning children and youth in the United States, she actively promotes a person-level and longitudinal understanding of children and families in California to inform children's programs and policies. She stewards robust data and funding partnerships, pursues and communicates answers to pressing policy questions, aligns data integration initiatives across the state, and, acting as an extension of and thought partner to state and local government, builds the capacity of public agencies to make better use of their own data. Her work is inherently transdisciplinary, spanning the child welfare, education, maternal and child health, mental health, epidemiology, government operational, human service, and public policy domains, placing her at the innovative intersection of academia, government, philanthropy, and public policy. She holds multiple board appointments, notably a three-year term on the inaugural California [Cradle-to-Career](#) Data and Tools Advisory Board. Dr. Foust holds a doctorate in Educational Psychology from the University of Virginia and a B.A. in Psychology from U.C. Davis.

Heather Hough (Research Organization)



Heather Hough is the executive director of Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE). Her research and analytic approach explores how a wide range of data on student outcomes—including academic, health and well-being, and experiential—can inform our collective understanding of student success, teacher and system performance, and the efficacy of programs and policies. She is committed to strengthening the impact of research on local- and state-level policymaking and implementation, with a particular focus on policy coherence, system alignment, and

continuous improvement. Hough has worked in a variety of capacities to support policy and practice in education, including as the founding director of the research partnership between PACE and the CORE Districts; as an improvement advisor at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching; and as a researcher at the Public Policy Institute of California, the Center for Education Policy Analysis at Stanford University, and the Center for Education Policy at SRI International. She has served on many statewide committees and work groups, and is currently a member of the advisory board for the Cradle-to-Career Data System. Hough received her BA in public policy and her PhD in education policy from Stanford University.

Laura Owen (Practitioner)



Dr. Laura Owen is a dedicated leader in education, serving as the Executive Director for the San Diego State University Center for Equity and Postsecondary Attainment. With a background as an urban school counselor, district counseling supervisor, and district crisis team lead, Dr. Owen is passionate about closing postsecondary opportunity gaps and advocating for historically marginalized communities. Her research covers interventions targeting FAFSA completion, high school to college transitions, virtual advising, and the

impact of technology in college counseling. Dr. Owen has received numerous accolades, including teaching awards from Johns Hopkins University and San Diego State University, and was honored as the 2023 California School Counselor Educator of the Year.

Vikash Reddy (Advocacy Organization)



Vikash Reddy has over ten years of experience in higher education research, with particular expertise in outcomes-based funding policies and developmental education reforms. Prior to joining the Campaign, Vikash was a Policy Analyst at the California Policy Lab at UC Berkeley, where he worked with California government agencies including the California Community College Chancellor's Office and the California Student Aid Commission to analyze administrative data and evaluate pilot programs. Vikash previously worked at the Community College Research Center and the Center for the Analysis of Postsecondary Readiness at Teachers College, Columbia University, where he co-authored books and articles on performance funding in higher education, researched reforms in developmental education, and helped to create and evaluate multiple measures placement systems at the State University of New York. Vikash earned his PhD in Education Policy from Teachers College, Columbia University, where he was awarded a Department of Education Policy & Social Analysis Dissertation Fellowship for his dissertation, *From the Schoolhouse to the Statehouse: The Role of Teach for America and Its Alumni in Education Policy*. He holds a Masters Degree in Elementary Teaching from Pace University and a Bachelor's Degree in Government from Dartmouth College.

Members Terming Out in 2026:

Lisa Catanzarite (Advocacy Organization)



Lisa Catanzarite, Ph.D. (she/her/hers), is Vice President of Research and Evaluation at [UNITE-LA](#), where she oversees research and evaluation activities in education, workforce development, and economic mobility, with a focus on anti-racism and equity.

Examples of recent research projects include:

[Empowering L.A. Parenting Students for College Success](#); [Fostering Statewide Prosperity Through California's Opportunity Youth](#); [Employment of Systems-Involved Angelenos](#); [Talent Needs of L.A. Area Tech Employers](#); [Business Organizations as Education &](#)

[Workforce Advocacy Champions](#); a supply and demand analysis of allied healthcare pathways for opportunity youth; and the [Charting Progress toward L.A. Compact Goals](#) data dashboard—which tracks key cradle-to-career metrics for the L.A. region and California. Prior to joining UNITE-LA, Dr. Catanzarite spent almost two decades in academia at Washington State University, UCLA, and UC San Diego as a tenured professor and senior research sociologist. Her peer-reviewed publications center on labor markets, education, gender, race/ethnicity, immigration, and poverty. Dr. Catanzarite completed a bachelor's degree in history, master's degrees in education and sociology, and a Ph.D. in sociology (all at Stanford University), as well as a post-doctoral fellowship in Sociology (UCLA). Recent professional service includes the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine's Advisory Group for the Evaluation of Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) Compensation Data; UNIDOS-US' Advisory Group for the Latina Wealth Project; and the California Department of Education's State Team for Social and Emotional Learning; and USC Sol Price Center's Steering Committee for [Neighborhood Data for Social Change](#).

Diana Harlick (Practitioner)



Diana Harlick leads preschool to third grade instructional improvement supports, data strategy and evaluation for The Big Lift (www.thebiglift.org) – an eight-district collective impact initiative to increase the percentage of children reading proficiently at third grade. Throughout the course of her career, Diana has led or co-led several multi-partner, multi-sector countywide early childhood initiatives and evaluation studies, combining partnership development, program development and data development seamlessly to scale high impact interventions for vulnerable and at-risk young children. She has built an integrated, longitudinal, multi-district preschool to third grade (P-3) data strategy that provides actionable data tools for a range of local stakeholders, and that fills the preschool to third grade data void that exists in most other places. She is a recognized thought leader at the intersection of early childhood programming, data and assessment, contributing to many statewide reports and conferences. Diana holds a Master's degree in Public Administration and a Bachelor's degree in Sociology & French.

Helen Norris (Practitioner)



Helen Norris serves as Vice President and Chief Information Officer at Chapman University, where she is responsible for leading the university's information technology strategy and services, as well as overseeing the University Library. Ms. Norris joined Chapman in 2014 after holding technology leadership roles at California State University, Sacramento, and the University of California, Berkeley. Besides serving on the Data and Tools Advisory Board, Ms. Norris is a member of the board of directors for the Society for Information Management and STEM Advantage. She previously

served as a board member and board chair of EDUCAUSE and as a trustee and board chair for the National Endowment for Financial Education. Originally from Ireland, Ms. Norris earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, and a Master's degree in Computer Resource Management and Business Administration from Webster University, St. Louis. She has received multiple awards, including a SoCal CIO Orbie Award in 2023 (<https://socalcio.org/awards/2023>).

Diana Phuong (Community Organization)



Diana Phuong is the Executive Director of Braven in the Bay Area, which she joined at San José State as Site Director in January 2020 and in her first year, adapted the core Accelerator Course to an entirely virtual context to much success. Prior to Braven, Diana engaged counties, districts, and schools in integrated STEAM education by leveraging hands-on learning as a Partnership Director for a local nonprofit, RAFT. She launched a RAFT STEAM Summer Program through joint funding as a 4.0 Schools Tiny Fellow. Prior to that, Diana spent a decade in teaching and high school administration. Her teaching began as a Teach For America Fellow in Memphis, TN, where she taught 3rd-5th grade English as a Second Language. Diana earned her Bachelor's in English from the University of California-Irvine and a Master's in Education from Christian Brothers University.

Jacob (Oliver) Schak (Practitioner)



Oliver Schak is a Senior Research and Evaluation Specialist for Santa Clara County's Behavioral Health Services Department, where he creates data tools and analyses that benchmark the performance of mental health and substance use treatment programs. Additionally, Oliver is a nationally recognized expert on higher education affordability and finance, and he has an extensive repertoire of working with education data for decision-makers, and shepherding data tools for

Attachment A

consumers. He previously served as Research Director at The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS) and Associate Director of Higher Education Research and Analytics at The Education Trust. One of his crowning achievements was helping to launch the College Scorecard, while he served at the U.S. Department of Education. A native of Minneapolis, Oliver graduated from Carleton College with a bachelor's degree in economics and completed his Master of Public Policy degree at the University of California — Berkeley.

Members Terming Out in 2024:

Meredith Curry Nuñez (Community Organization)



My name is Meredith "Mer" Curry Nuñez, and I am the Executive Director of the Northern California College Promise Coalition. Since 2000, I have worked at the intersection of operations, college access, and workforce development with local and state nonprofits. I'm a product of California's three public higher education institutions, and I am passionate about advancing systems change, education equity, and economic mobility.

Nancy Jodaitis (Advocacy Organization)



Nancy Jodaitis is the Director of Higher Education at Immigrants Rising, where she has dedicated her skills to building educational pathways for undocumented students in higher education for the past fourteen years. Her efforts include providing technical support to post-secondary institutions to expand institutional practices to increase undocumented students' enrollment and graduation rates. She also conducts trainings and creates learning communities for educators, administrators, financial aid, and admissions departments to facilitate cross-campus learning. Nancy is currently coordinating a statewide initiative to increase equitable enrollment of in-state tuition at public colleges and universities and also researching award rates for the CA Dream Act. To increase promising practices, Nancy has developed a library of educational materials for undocumented students and guides for colleges & universities. Previously, Nancy worked for more than a decade as a financial aid counselor, pre-admissions/transfer advisor, and undocumented student advocate.

Paige Loverin (Practitioner)



Paige Loverin, MA, PPS, is a counselor for Visalia Unified's College and Career Readiness. She has worked in K-12 student services for 26 years and has served as a CCC adjunct instructor. Visalia Unified sits at the center of Tulare County and serves 29,953 students.

Marcos Montes (Community Organization)



Marcos Montes has worked with the Southern California College Attainment Network since 2018 where he leads SoCal CAN's Policy Agenda, oversees student advocacy programs, represents the network in over 10 statewide and federal coalitions, and runs an online student community via Let's Go To College CA. Marcos' goal with the network is to help advance equitable policies and practices that support systematically excluded and oppressed students, cultivate the next generation of student leaders, address college affordability and increase the number of

undocumented students attending college. He is the first in his family to graduate from a university and a proud product of college success programs. Marcos previously served as a statewide student leader as Vice President of Legislative Affairs for the Cal State Student Association. In 2017 he was recognized as CSU Student Advocate of the Year and in 2018 he received a State Resolution from Speaker Anthony Rendon and Senator Bill Dodd commending his work as a student leader.

Members Terming Out in 2025:

Michelle Cheang (Community Organization)



Dr. Michelle Cheang is the inaugural Director of Catalyze, a collaborative fund seeking to jumpstart innovations in the field of career-connected learning through grantmaking, learning, and storytelling. Michelle brings over fifteen years of experience in community-based organizations, addressing education and equity, and promoting social justice for K-12, youth and adults. As a nonprofit practitioner, Michelle launched a youth education and workforce department operating three centers for opportunity youth, successfully partnered with K-12 public schools

and industry leaders to provide college and career exploration and readiness programs, and strategically engaged with funders to align investments with organizational priorities. During her tenure as a community college dean, Michelle expanded career technical education pathways through K-12 dual enrollment partnerships, academic support services and instruction, and employer engagement. Michelle earned a Doctor of Education and Master of Public Administration from California State University, Northridge and bachelor's degree in anthropology from the University of California, San Diego.

Parshan Khosravi (Advocacy Organization)



Parshan Khosravi is a community organizer, policy advocate, and business owner with a passion for education equity. He serves as the CA Policy Director for uAspire as well as the managing partner at KHK Solutions LLC. In addition, Parshan serves on the Board of Directors at the California Zoroastrian Center, Orange County. A first-generation immigrant and a former ESL student, Parshan brings with him over 10 years of experience advocating for education access and equity. Prior to joining uAspire's team, Parshan served as

the Government Relations Director for the UC Student Association, where he represented over 285,000 students of the University of California system at the state and national level, fighting for a more accessible and affordable education. A double alum of the University of California, Parshan received his Bachelor's degrees in Political Science and Education Sciences from UC Irvine and his Master's Degree in Public Policy from UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs.

Orquidea Largo (Practitioner)



Dr. Orquídea Largo serves as Associate Vice Chancellor of Educational Partnerships responsible for the Center for Educational Partnerships (CEP) within the Student Affairs unit at UC Merced, which houses multiple state, federal, and privately funded academic preparation programs and serves as UC Merced's Chief Outreach officer. She also serves as UC Merced's chief outreach officer. During her 20+ year career at UC Merced, she has helped secure over \$42 million in federal, state, and private grants to provide student, parent, and school- centered services aimed “to

provide student, school, and parent-centered services that ultimately result in students having the greatest number of postsecondary choices from the widest array of options upon graduation.”

Jackie Nevarez (Practitioner)



Introducing Jackie Nevarez, a trailblazing advocate for educational change in California. Jackie has journeyed through some of California's largest school districts, connecting "boots on the ground" experiences with statewide organizations. She is currently the Coordinator for College and Career for Sacramento City Unified School District, in "The Heart of the State." Armed with a Master's in School Counseling and another in Marriage and Family

Therapy, packaged with over two decades of experience, she serves on multiple boards, including the CSAC Financial Aid Advisory Board, The Timothy Tuition Program for Foster Youth, and the Nor Cal Army Community Relations Board. As a first-generation student, Jackie Nevarez lacked the cultural capital to understand the educational system; therefore, in all capacities, she now works to support efforts to capture the passion of California's youth and provide them with a future worthy of their generation and beyond.

Lisa Rodriguez (Practitioner)



Lisa Rodriguez is the Director of Student Services for the Kings County Office of Education. Preceding this position, Rodriguez served as a Curriculum Consultant and Education Learning Coordinator and spent 12 years as a high school Agriculture teacher at Orsi High School in Tulare County. Lisa has a passion to ensure that All students have equitable access to become College and Career Ready. Lisa attended College of the Sequoias and then transferred to Fresno State where she earned a BA and her Single Subject credential in Agriculture Education and an Agriculture Specialist

Credential. Rodriguez earned her Administrative Services credential and MA in Education Administration and Supervision from California State University, Fresno.

Sbeydeh Viveros-Walton (Advocacy Organization)



Sbeydeh is the founding Director of Higher Education at Public Advocates, a civil rights legal and advocacy organization. She also serves as Council Member in the City of San Leandro, representing District 1. Sbeydeh has over 17 years of executive leadership experience in the public and non-profit sectors focusing on equity centered policy and programs. Originally from Baja California, Mexico, Sbeydeh is a proud community college transfer student -making her a graduate of all three public higher

education institutions in California. She also volunteers as Co-Chair of KQED's Community Advisory Board and mentors underrepresented students transitioning from high school into college and community college transfer students.

Members Terming Out in 2026:

Lorenzo Gamboa (Practitioner)



Hola, my name is Lorenzo Gamboa. I am honored to be a first generation college graduate who grew up in rural Colorado to immigrant parents and now works as an admission officer for my alma mater, Santa Clara University. I hold a Bachelor Degree in Economics from Santa Clara, Masters of Science in Immigration and Education from University of Arizona, Masters in Business Administration from Santa Clara and an Educational Doctorate from the same very soon. I have spent much of my time exploring and understanding the opportunities and challenges that exist in higher

education because I want to become the bridge of knowledge I and my parent's once craved to understand. Now with close to two decades of work experience I aspire to make sure all families seeking out the same can become a reality.

Adam Gottlieb (Advocacy Organization)



Adam Gottlieb serves as the Director of Postsecondary Strategy & Policy at UNITE-LA. In his role, he oversees policy and systems change strategy as they relate to postsecondary access and success at local, state, and federal levels. He also leads the L.A. Region K-16 Collaborative, bringing together key leaders of K-12, higher education, workforce, civic offices, and nonprofits to support equitable education and career attainment in the L.A. region. Adam received a B.A. from the University of Redlands in Political Thought and

Practice and an M.P.P. from Vanderbilt University in Education Policy. He is the current president of the University of Redlands Alumni Board of Directors and serves as a member of the University Board of Trustees. Adam also serves in advisory capacities for numerous state and education agencies as well as higher education institutions, supporting student success efforts.

Karina Lopez (Practitioner)



My name is Karina Lopez; I am a Tenured Counselor for the EOPS/CARE/Next Up Program at Compton College. In my role I have the blessing to work with first-generation, low-income students, student-parents, and/or current and former foster youth. I guide them and mentor them to ensure they can successfully attend and complete college so they can make their academic, professional and personal goals come true. I have worked in higher education for 10 years and I previously worked at Pasadena City College and Mt. San Antonio College as an EOPS/CARE/Next Up

Counselor. I am a first-generation college student and was the first to graduate high school and attend/graduate from college. I earned my Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from California State University, Northridge (CSUN) and my Masters in Educational Counseling from University of Southern California (USC).

Carla Lopez-Valdes (Community Organization)



Dr. Carla Lopez-Valdes has been a social justice advocate in the nonprofit sector for over 15 years. Through this work, she has advocated for domestic workers' rights, health access, civic engagement, and education equity for underserved communities across Los Angeles County. It is her personal mission to advocate for policies and programs that play a critical role in ensuring communities in need can fully thrive. She currently serves as the Associate Director of Government and Community Relations at Para

Los Niños (For The Kids), an organization that works through a holistic lens to ensure children and families can succeed.

Mike Nguyen (Student)



Mr. Nguyen is from the San Francisco Bay Area and proudly represents all students across the State of California in overseeing the development of the Cradle-to-Career Data System. Currently, he is a first-generation undergraduate student at the University of California, Berkeley. Prior to his appointment to the Board, Mr. Nguyen served in local office as Commissioner, representing nearly half a million youth in the County of Santa Clara. His work has centered around improving public welfare through educational advocacy, civic engagement, and hunger awareness.

Mr. Nguyen is a national scholar and advocate recognized by numerous media outlets, the United Nations Association of the United States of America, the U.S. Department of Education, and the White House.

Alexis Takagi (Student)



Alexis Takagi is a doctoral student at Santa Clara University's (SCU) School of Education and Counseling Psychology, studying Social Justice Leadership in Higher Education. Concurrently, she is the Basic Needs Coordinator in the Office of Student Life at Santa Clara University. Alexis earned her AA in Social Sciences from Foothill Community College in 2020 and her BA in Communications with high honors from Santa Clara University in 2022. She was subsequently appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom as a commission member for the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC), which

oversees \$3.2 billion in financial aid, serving as the student representative for the

Attachment B

independent non-profit sector. Alexis is a proud first-generation California community college transfer student and student advocate.