Data and Tools Advisory Board

Daniel Millán (he/him), City of los Angeles Youth Development Department

Daniel earned a PhD in Sociology from the University of California, Irvine and was a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Chicano Studies Research Center at the University of California, Los Angeles prior to joining the LA City Youth Development Department. Daniel has over twelve years experience working on data and research projects that center youth, including undocumented students in California and, more recently, youth in the City of Los Angeles. As a researcher and data analyst, Daniel incorporates community voices and lived experiences to design and carry out projects - this includes mentoring Youth Development Department research fellows.

Myrtha Ortiz Villar (she/they), Students Rising Above

Myrtha Ortiz Villar is a leader in data strategy, educational support, and advocacy, with over a decade of experience serving underrepresented communities. Currently, they are the Senior Manager of Data Strategy and Insights at Students Rising Above, where she combines deep knowledge of the education landscape with hands-on expertise in program management, data collection, and impact evaluation. Myrtha has worked at multiple institutions, from K-Dat12 to higher education, to develop and implement data-drive initiatives that effectively support students from first-generation and low-income backgrounds. Rooted in her upbringing in California's immigrant rights movement and with a strong commitment to social justice and equity, Myrtha leverages research, data analysis, and program development skills to advocate for systemic change in education. She holds a B.A. from UC Berkeley in

Geography and a Master's in Education Leadership, Organizations, and Entrepreneurship from the Harvard School of Education.

Lauren Reed, PhD, she/her, Oakland Promise

My name is Lauren Reed, I am currently the Director of Impact & Evaluation at Oakland Promise. Oakland Promise is a cradle-to-career organization that promotes postsecondary completion and economic mobility for underrepresented students from Oakland, CA. I am a researcher, evaluator, and educator with 15 years of experience in community-based research with youth. I have a Joint PhD in Social Work and Developmental Psychology from the University of Michigan, and my practice and research focused on positive youth development, youth participatory action research, school-based dating abuse prevention, and technology-based abuse. I was faculty at the Arizona State University School of Social work for six years before transitioning to the nonprofit sector to lead evaluation research at Oakland Promise.

Iulia Tarasova (she/her), City of Roseville

Iulia Tarasova has served on many statewide committees and work groups. In her role as an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Analyst with the City of Roseville, she specializes in optimizing enterprise operations through the strategic implementation and management of advanced ERP systems. With a keen eye for detail and data, Ms. Tarasova excels in aligning cutting-edge ERP solutions with organizational needs to drive efficiency, growth, and informed decision-making. Her commitment to excellence extends beyond ERP systems to her dedication to student success; believing that meaningful internship experiences are foundational to building future leaders of California, Iulia draws on her extensive background, including her own impactful

internships, to enhance career development initiatives. Through a strategic partnership with RJUHSD, Ms Tarasova has facilitated access to invaluable career opportunities for high school students, adeptly overseeing their placement into roles that offer practical experience aligned with their academic goals. By meticulously tracking and evaluating each placement, she ensures not only the immediate success of these internships but also their long-term influence on students' professional development and leadership potential.

John B. Watson, PhD (he/him), San Diego County Office of Education

John Watson, Ph.D., is Director of the Data and Impact Center of Excellence at the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE), guiding data systems and data science projects that support improving student outcomes. John's roles over the last 20 years include Data Scientist at SDCOE, Senior Director of IT and Analytics at Institute for Evidence-Based Change, a community college research organization operating the Cal-PASS program; Associate Professor of software engineering for National University; and a technical member of the executive team for two internet startup companies. John completed a bachelor's degree at University of California San Diego in economics, a master's degree focusing on human and artificial cognition at San Diego State University, and a joint Ph.D. in education from Claremont Graduate University and San Diego State University culminating in the California State Graduate Research Award for his work in detecting metacognitive awareness in elementary school students.