

# Cradle-to-Career Community Engagement Advisory Board

## Staff Report

Date Report Issued: March 12, 2025  
Attention: Members of Community Engagement Advisory Board  
Subject: **Introduction to Community Engagement Advisory Board Liaison (Agenda Item Three)**  
Staff Contact: Stephanie Gutierrez-Valdez, Board Liaison and Governance Specialist

At this meeting, the Community Engagement Advisory Board (CEAB) will receive an update on the CEAB Governing Board Liaison.

### Requested Action:

There is no requested action for this item. This is an informational item only.

### Background:

At the November 1, 2023 Governing Board (Board) meeting, the Board voted to approve the creation and implementation of standing liaison roles for all aspects of Cradle-to-Career Data's (C2C) work. These roles establish a reliable mechanism for collecting feedback and support, contributing to a robust structure for collaboration.

At the February 28, 2024 Board meeting, Former Board Chair Tagorda appointed the first Board liaisons and stand-ins for each role to serve a one-year term, concluding at the end of the 2024 calendar year. At the [November 15, 2024](#) Board meeting, Board Chair Payne appointed Board liaison appointments and stand-ins for the 2025 calendar year.

Board Member Nellum has been appointed as the CEAB liaison, responsible for attending the CEAB meeting and sharing insights from the CEAB with the Board. More information on Board Member Nellum can be found in Attachment A.

**Christopher J. Nellum, PhD (He/Him/His)**

**EdTrust – West**



Dr. Christopher J. Nellum is the Executive Director of EdTrust—West, an evidence-driven advocacy organization committed to dismantling the racial and economic barriers embedded in the California education system through research, policy, and practice work. He has led successful advocacy efforts to make California's TK-12 schools and colleges places that welcome, support, and champion the success of Black, Latinx, Asian American/Pacific Islander, Native, and multilingual

learner students. Before joining EdTrust—West, Dr. Nellum served in roles with the National Center for Institutional Diversity, Young Invincibles, and the American Council on Education. He cut his teeth in education equity on college campuses working directly with students. Dr. Nellum has worked in the education and advocacy field for nearly two decades, completed his undergraduate degree at UC Santa Barbara, master's degree at CSU Long Beach, and Ph.D. at the University of Michigan. He is a respected thought leader, a sought-after speaker in California and nationally, and frequently writes and provides media commentary on issues of racial equity in education in outlets including Newsweek, The Los Angeles Times, EdSource, and NBC News.