

Cradle-to-Career Data Selection for Advisory Boards

Committee Staff Report

Date Report Issued: June 6, 2025

Attention: Members of the Selection for Advisory Boards Committee

Subject: **Summary of the Community Engagement Advisory Board Recruitment and Selection Process (Agenda Item 4)**

Staff Contact: Marykate Cruz Jones, Chief of Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships

At this meeting, the Selection for Advisory Boards Committee (Committee) will have the opportunity to discuss and slate candidates and runners up for the six upcoming Community Engagement Advisory Board vacancies which will be recommended to the Governing Board at the August 15 Governing Board meeting.

Requested Action:

After review and consideration of the applications, rubric, and upcoming vacancies, Staff recommends that the Committee slate six new members for appointment to the Community Engagement Advisory Board and six runners up.

- ❖ Move to recommend to the Governing Board to approve six applicants for appointment to the Community Engagement Advisory Board and six runners up.

Background:

Below is a comprehensive overview of the Community Engagement Advisory Board's responsibilities and an analysis of current vacancies. This information provides insights into the duties of Community Engagement Advisory Board members and highlights the areas where new Community Engagement Advisory Board members are needed to provide diverse perspectives.

Scope of the Community Engagement Advisory Board:

[Education Code Section 10865](#) specifies 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.

Vacancy Analysis:

At the outset of Cradle-to-Career Data's (C2C) development, all Advisory Board seats were appointed in staggered term lengths; however, after the initial year, all appointed positions serve three-year terms. The following members of the Community Engagement Advisory Board will cycle off the Board in August: Michelle Cheang, Parshan Khosravi, Orquidea Largo, Jackie Nevarez, Lisa Rodriguez, Sbeydeh Viveros-Walton, resulting in six vacancies on the Community Engagement Advisory Board. The term for the vacancies will be from 2025 through 2028.

As the Community Engagement Advisory Board faces vacancies, it is imperative to analyze how those impending openings will affect the Community Engagement Advisory Board as the new selection process begins. In terms of the six members that will be cycling off the Community Engagement Advisory Board, two members represent advocacy organizations, one member represents a community organization, and three members are practitioners. Given their departure and pending the new selection of members, the Community Engagement Advisory Board will be composed of three members that represent advocacy organizations, three members that represent community organizations, three practitioners, and one student¹. The biographies of all current Community Engagement Advisory Board members can be found

¹ The April 28, 2025 Committee meeting [staff report](#) identified two student members. Since that time, one of the student members has graduated, and their vacancy has been reclassified as a practitioner seat.

on Attachment A. More information regarding the breakdown of member term limits and representation can be found below:

	2025	2026	2027
Advocacy Organization	2 Vacancies	1 Vacancy	2 Vacancies
Community Organization	1 Vacancy	1 Vacancy	2 Vacancies
Practitioner	3 Vacancies	3 Vacancies	-
Student/Families	-	1 Vacancy	-

Ideal Populations:

As the [Governance Manual](#) specifies, it is important for the Community Engagement Advisory Board to bolster the public's voice and cultivate a diversity of perspectives. In addition, attention should be placed on recruiting members who have expertise in equity, and prioritizing community members who can be conduits of information to and from the data system's intended audiences.

Based on this information, at the April 28 Committee meeting, the Committee deliberated and approved the ideal populations for appointment for the upcoming Community Engagement Advisory Board vacancies. This includes representatives from tribal communities and California State University, and representatives with a regional area of focus in Northern California and the Central Valley. The Committee will take into consideration the approved ideal populations for appointment during the slating process, however, final slating decisions will be made at the June 27 Committee meeting.

Instructions for Committee Members:

The Office of Cradle-to-Career Data (Office) received 56² applications for six vacant positions. To support Committee members in their review of the candidates, the Office prepared the following for members:

- ❖ **A scoring rubric** which defines the criteria used for scoring the applications. Committee members approved the rubric at the April 28, 2025 Committee meeting.
- ❖ **A PDF application packet** with the submitted applications.
- ❖ **A summary spreadsheet** of the applicants assigned to each member for review.
- ❖ **A Google Form** for members to submit the results of scoring the applicants based on the rubric.

Once all the rubric scores are in from members, the Office will collate the results and share the top candidates as a decision support tool at the June 28 meeting.

Selection of Seats by Category:

To facilitate the Committee's decision making, the Office organized the applications by category relative to the sector or population represented. Based on the applications received and the Governance Manual's guidance to aim for diverse perspectives and backgrounds, it is the task of the Committee to

² The Office received two additional applications that were 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.

review the applications, seeking unique individuals and keeping in mind the vacancies identified in this staff report.

To facilitate the Committee's deliberation and ideation, the Office has compiled key questions for members to consider:

- ❖ How do these applicants fill a gap in expertise, experiences, or perspectives on the Community Engagement Advisory Board?
- ❖ How do these applicants contribute to the diversity of the Community Engagement Advisory Board?
- ❖ How do these applicants align with and support C2C's future priorities as outlined in the [strategic plan](#), [12-month workplan](#), and [5-year timeline](#)?

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 Orosi 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, EdD (Practitioner)



Dr. Alexis Takagi is Santa Clara University's inaugural Basic Needs Coordinator, leading efforts to support students experiencing food, housing, and financial insecurity through direct services, advocacy, and partnerships across campus and with external community organizations. She also serves as a Research Fellow at the Campaign for College Opportunity. A proud first-generation California community college transfer student and student advocate, Alexis earned her AA in Social Sciences from Foothill College, her BA in Communications with high honors from Santa Clara

University, and her EdD in Social Justice Leadership in Higher Education from Santa Clara University's School of Education and Counseling Psychology. In 2022, she was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom to the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC), which oversees \$3.2 billion in financial aid, serving as the student representative for the independent non-profit sector. Alexis' work and research center on elevating the student voice and advancing socioeconomic mobility by addressing systemic barriers to educational equity.

Members Terming Out in 2027:

Lisa Countryman-Quiroz (Community Organization)



Lisa Countryman-Quiroz joined JVS in 2013 and became CEO in January 2020. Under Lisa's leadership, JVS has continued to flourish while evolving JVS programs and services to meet the rapidly changing needs of our current economic environment. Leading with empathy and vision, Lisa has set a 10-year strategic vision for JVS which will drive scaled impact and systems and policy change. Supporting this ambitious vision is a commitment to working in partnership across the social service ecosystem and creating and fostering a culture of learning and inclusivity to support the whole JVS

community in achieving their full potential. Lisa currently sits on the Executive Committee and Stakeholder group for the California Worker Equity Initiative, the UCSF Healthforce Pathfinder council, the C2C Community Engagement Advisory Board, and the National Skills Coalition WIOA advisory council. Lisa holds a master's degree in Comparative Literature from SUNY Buffalo and a bachelor's degree in German and Classics from Loyola University Chicago.

Natalia Gonzalez (Community Organization)



Born and raised in the Eastern Coachella Valley, Natalia Tonatiah Gonzalez is the Community Engagement and Partnership Representative at the Riverside County Office of Education, where she focuses on building strategic partnerships to enhance educational opportunities across the region. With years of experience in education and public service, Natalia holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from UCLA and a Master's degree in Communication from California Baptist University. She is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Organizational Change and Leadership

from the University of Southern California.

Marisa Johnson (Advocacy Organization)



Marisa Johnson is the Director of Policy Impact at the Campaign for College Opportunity. Marisa has worked for the Campaign for College Opportunity in different roles over the past five years, starting as a Policy Fellow in 2019. Marisa was born and raised in Hollister, California, a rural city where many in the community first access higher education through the community college system. Marisa's mother was a first-generation student who instilled the transformative power of higher education, which drives the work she does today.

Marisa earned a BA in Social Work from the University of

Portland, a Master of Social Work (MSW) and a MS in Disaster Resilience Leadership from Tulane University.

Dar'rell Jones (Advocacy Organization)



My name is Dar'rell Jones, and I am a proud 2nd generational native of San Bernardino, California, where all 11 of my aunts and uncles were also born and raised. I graduated from California State University, San Bernardino with a degree in Biology and Business Administration. As a first-generation college graduate, I developed a deep passion for helping other first-generation students navigate their academic and career journeys. This passion has driven me to spend the past 5 years at BLU Educational Foundation, where I currently serve as the Career Program Manager. In this role, I oversee all of the organization's career programming and collaborate with K-12 school districts, higher education institutions, and companies to create streamlined and purposeful career pathways.