

John Hetts, PhD (He/Him/His)

Executive Vice Chancellor for the Office of Innovation, Data, Evidence, and Analytics

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office



As executive vice chancellor of the new Office of Innovation, Data, Evidence and Analytics, John J. Hetts, PhD, leads the development and delivery of information technology and security services, student-centered technology-focused initiatives, and evidence-based reporting and evaluation. A nationally recognized leader in intersegmental educational pathways in higher education, Hetts has spent the last two decades working to better understand and recognize student capacity to make certain that all students receive fair credit for their skills and the full opportunity to put those

skills to use to achieve their educational goals and aspirations. He currently represents the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office as a Board Member of the Governing Board of the State of California Cradle to Career System, leads the statewide Student Metrics Advisory Committee, and has served as a member of the Multiple Measures Assessment Project research team, the Cradle to Career Research Subcommittee, both the University of California's Standardized Testing Feasibility Steering Committee and Work Group, the California Guided Pathways Advisory Committee, and the AB 705 Implementation Workgroup, and has been both a California Education Policy Fellow and a Complete College America Fellow. Hetts earned a bachelor's degree from Stanford University followed by a doctorate in social psychology with specializations in measurement and psychometrics as well as political psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Jory Hadesell, PhD (He/Him/His)
Executive in Residence for Strategic Technology Initiatives
California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office



Dr. Jory Hadsell serves in the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office as Executive-in-Residence for Strategic Technology Initiatives, supporting Chancellor Sonya Christian in advancing statewide modernization and digital transformation efforts under Vision 2030. His current portfolio includes leadership roles on several key initiatives such as the Common Cloud Data Platform Demonstration Project, Reimagine CCC Apply, enhancements to eTranscript California, and the Career Passport project designed to strengthen student transitions into the workforce. These efforts are central to

expanding equitable access, removing friction in the student journey, and accelerating academic and economic mobility for the state's 2.1 million community college students.

Dr. Hadsell is additionally guiding development of the Digital Center for Innovation, Transformation, and Equity, which will serve as a statewide hub for emerging technologies, strategic partnerships, and scalable solutions aligned with Vision 2030 priorities.

He is currently on special assignment from the Foothill–De Anza Community College District in Silicon Valley, where he has served as Vice Chancellor of Technology & Chief Technology Officer, leading enterprise systems, cybersecurity, institutional research and planning, and digital learning infrastructure that supports students, faculty, and staff. His previous statewide leadership includes serving as Executive Director of the California Virtual Campus–Online Education Initiative, where he oversaw major expansion of online learning and launched the CVC Course Exchange to help students complete their educational goals more efficiently. Dr. Hadsell holds an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and is dedicated to advancing technology and data strategies that strengthen student success and systemwide operational excellence.

David O'Brien (He/Him/His)
Vice Chancellor of External Relations
California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office



As Vice Chancellor of External Relations, David O'Brien oversees a division responsible for formulating and advancing the legislative agenda of the California Community Colleges and represents the Chancellor's Office before the Legislature and executive branch of the state and federal governments.

Prior to joining the Chancellor's Office in April 2020, O'Brien was the director of government affairs for the California Student Aid Commission since October 2016, a role that placed him as the commission's primary

liaison to the state Legislature, the Governor's Office, the California Department of Finance and other agencies on matters related to financial aid and college affordability. That made him a critical figure in the commission's efforts to reform and expand California's financial aid programs. Prior to joining the Student Aid Commission, O'Brien worked for nearly five years as a legislative manager for the California Department of State Hospitals, a legislative analyst for the state Department of Mental Health and as a legislative assistant for the California Environmental Protection Agency. In 2024, he earned his Master's degree in Public Policy and Administration from Sacramento State University, and has engaged in postgraduate research and publication around the California Master Plan for Higher Education.