

Jessica Moldoff, PhD (She/Her)

Deputy Director of Data, Analysis and Research, California Student Aid Commission



Jessica Moldoff, Ph.D., is the Deputy Director of Data, Analysis and Research at the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC). As Deputy Director, Jessica is responsible for facilitating research on program effectiveness and financial aid administration, as well as overseeing reports, program projections, and ad hoc data requests. After graduating from undergrad, Jessica worked at a community college in Lexington, Kentucky, for over three years, including in its financial aid office. She received a Masters and PhD in Higher Education from the University of Kentucky, where she completed

her dissertation on the idea and implementation of competency-based education. She then moved to California and has worked at CSAC since 2017.

Daisy Gonzalez, PhD (She/Her)

Executive Director, California Student Aid Commission



Daisy Gonzales, Ph.D., serves as the Executive Director of the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC), the largest state financial aid system in the United States. She is responsible for administering over \$3.5 billion in financial aid programs for students attending public and private universities, colleges, and vocational schools in California.

Dr. Gonzales a student-centered leader whose life-long commitment to social justice, equity and inclusion is guided by the empowerment of communities and partnerships that enable economic mobility. With over two decades of experience in higher education and statewide fiscal policy, she began her career in the classroom and served as the second highest administrator for California's Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. As Interim Chancellor, she

supported colleges to innovate during the COVID-19 pandemic by leading efforts to secure historic levels of state and federal funding and redesigning policies to remove barriers to equitable success. She is a first-generation college student and a proud alumna of California's Community Colleges. She holds a B.A. in Public policy, and M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology.

Abigail Barondess (She/Her)

Strategic Data Project Fellow, California Student Aid Commission



As a Strategic Data Project Fellow with the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC), Abbie is measuring the impact of state financial aid on student outcomes including persistence, graduation, and employment. In addition, Abbie works with the rest of the data team to administer and analyze student surveys, respond to internal and external data requests, and produce program projections. Abbie is a Master of Public Policy graduate of the University of Michigan's Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy. While in graduate school she worked on a mixed-method evaluation of the State of Michigan's GEAR UP program. Before graduate school, Abbie worked as a college advisor with the National College Advising Corps and a program coordinator for Grand Rapids Community College's Early Middle College program. She is passionate about developing evidence-based and student-centered policies that support college access and completion for underrepresented students.