

Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education

Elizabeth Elias (she/her), Deputy Bureau Chief, Enforcement



Elizabeth Elias serves as the Deputy Bureau Chief of Enforcement for the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (Bureau), under the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). In this role, Elizabeth oversees the Bureau's enforcement operations, ensuring compliance with laws and regulations through investigations, inspections, and enforcement

actions. She also leads initiatives to combat unlicensed activity, helping to uphold the integrity of California's private postsecondary educational institutions and protect students and consumers within the state and beyond. Elizabeth's career has been dedicated to advancing consumer protection for all Californians. She has held key leadership roles at the DCA, including Assistant Executive Officer at the Dental Hygiene Board of California and Probation Program Manager with the Board of Registered Nursing. With more than 20 years of public service experience, Elizabeth has consistently demonstrated her commitment to regulatory excellence, operational accountability, and the well-being of the communities she serves.

California Health and Human Services

Agnieszka Rykaczewska, PhD (she/her), Deputy Director, Center for Data Insights and Innovation



As Deputy Director of CDII's Insights Lab, Agnieszka oversees cross-departmental analytics and research efforts to drive person-centered insights. Agnieszka has spent most of her career empowering organizations to strategically use data to transform systems and drive impact for children, youth, and young adults. Prior to joining CDII, Agnieszka led systems change measurement efforts at First 5 LA, a county commission focused on improving conditions for young children and their families in LA County.

California Student Aid Commission

Ryan Fuller, EdD (he/him), Research Specialist



Ryan Fuller is currently a Research Specialist in the Data Analysis & Research Team (DART) at the California Student Aid Commission. Prior to his time at the Student Aid Commission Ryan has served in data & research related positions at the California Department of Education, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and the California Postsecondary Education Commission. He has a master's degree in Sociology from CSU Sacramento and a doctorate in Education from UC Davis.

California State University

Matthew Case, EdD (he/him), Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor for Institutional Research and Analyses



Matthew Case is Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor for Institutional Research & Analyses at the California State University Office of the Chancellor. In this role, he leads systemwide research and analytic efforts that inform policy, planning, student success, and institutional effectiveness. Over the past 20 years, he has supported higher education and government leaders as an institutional researcher and policy analyst, helping organizations use data to improve performance, expand opportunity, and strengthen public accountability. Grounded in his own journey through California public higher education,

Matthew is dedicated to ensuring that higher education remains a pathway to mobility and possibility for generations to come. He currently serves as Vice President of the California Association for Institutional Research (CAIR).

California Workforce Development Board

Kaina Pereira (he/him), Executive Director



Kaina Pereira, has been appointed to the CWDB as its new Executive Director. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Pereira served as Senior Advisor of Business Development at the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (Go-Biz) since 2020. Between 2018 and 2020 he served in several roles in the same department, including Deputy Director and Assistant Deputy Director. He also worked in the private sector as a business consultant and financial strategist before joining state service. Mr. Pereira holds a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration and earned a Master of

Business Administration from UC Davis. Mr. Pereira was sworn in on Wednesday, March 27, 2024.

Department of Developmental Services

Maricris Acon, Deputy Director, Early Childhood and Youth Services Division



Maricris Acon is the Deputy Director for Early Childhood and Youth Services (ECYS) Division at the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS). The Division provides leadership and support to California's early intervention community, regional center staff, providers, and contractors serving children and youth with intellectual/developmental delays and disabilities, ages birth through 22. As the Deputy Director, Maricris oversees initiatives and investments to improve access to and delivery of services in the Early Start program, and to help children and youth

plan lives that include a strong sense of belonging in the community, independence and self-direction, and employment. Before leading the ECYS Division, Maricris served as the Deputy Director of the Federal Programs Division in DDS, overseeing compliance with a wide range of federal requirements.

Prior to coming to DDS, Maricris held a variety of leadership positions for 12 years at the California Department of Finance, overseeing the state budgets for Medi-Cal and various health programs. She holds a Master in Public Administration degree from California State University, East Bay.

Department of Industrial Relations

Adele Burnes (she/her), Chief, California Division of Apprenticeship Standards



Adele Burnes has spent her career in workforce development and economic empowerment. She has worked at this important issue from many angles including government policy work, tech startups to develop startup ecosystems, leading strategy and operations for a non-profit, Year Up Bay Area, and as the first ever Regional Director of Apprenticeship for the Bay Area Community College Consortium. Adele joined the DAS in 2021 as Deputy Chief and in 2025 took over as Chief, and her work has focused on policy and strategy to expand apprenticeships in CA to create a

more equitable and accessible on ramp into a wide variety of careers from the building trades to healthcare, tech, education, public service and every sector of our economy. Adele has been innovating in the area of apprenticeship funding, spearheading the Equal Representation in Construction Apprenticeship Grant to improve gender representation in the trades, along with establishing the Apprenticeship Innovation Funding, which is providing critical sustainable funding to apprenticeships across many sectors. Finally, she has also led the work to ensure that the opportunity youth of CA are offered supported pathways into apprenticeship through the CA Opportunity Youth Apprenticeship Grant.

Department of Social Services

Hillary Berwick, PhD (she/her), Bureau Chief, Insights Bureau



My name is Hilary Berwick, and I am the manager of the Insights Bureau at the California Department of Social Services. My team is responsible for data storytelling and deep dive analysis on administrative data, as well as providing CDSS data on program participation to C2C. I have a PhD in Cultural Studies and over two decades of experience in education as well as a decade of experience in administrative

government data.

Employment Development Department

Juan Barrios, Division Chief, Labor Market Information Division



Juan is Chief of the Labor Market Information Division at the California Employment Development Department. The division collects, researches, analyzes, and publishes economic and demographic information to support labor market research, program planning, economic development, and career exploration, as well as overseeing applied research and collaborative projects with public and private research

organizations on issues of California's labor force and economic conditions. The division also includes out stationed staff that provide local expertise throughout California, offering tailored research, analysis, and training on labor market information access, as well as providing local context and responding to inquiries from television, radio, and print media.

ScholarShare Investment Board

Noah Lightman (he/him), Assistant Deputy Director of Policy and Administration



Noah Lightman is the Assistant Deputy Director of Policy and Administration at the ScholarShare Investment Board, the state agency that administers California's ScholarShare 529 college savings plan and the CalKIDS Program. Since joining the agency in 2020, he has overseen the development and implementation of CalKIDS, the nation's largest

child development account program, serving over 5.6 million enrolled participants.

Prior to joining SIB, Noah served as a Legislative Aide in the California State Assembly, where he negotiated legislation and provided policy recommendations on numerous statewide issues. During this time, he successfully secured the original funding for CalKIDS through the state budget. He began his career working in different campaign and policy capacities for political candidates and a labor union in California. Noah earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of California, San Diego.

University of California

Chris Furguele (he/him), Director, Institutional Research and Academic Planning



Chris Furguele is a Director in Institutional Research and Academic Planning (IRAP) at the University of California Office of the President. Chris leads IRAP's work in the collection, analysis, and reporting of student outcomes data in support of university policymaking and information provision to public audiences. He has represented UC on the Cradle to Career Governing Board since 2021 and prior to that served on the Data System's planning process workgroup. Prior to joining UC Chris worked as an evaluator of education and

workforce programs at both the federal and state levels. Chris has a bachelor's degree from Syracuse University and a master's degree in public policy from the University of California, Berkeley.