

Cradle-to-Career Data Governing Board Staff Report

Date Report Issued: July 29, 2026
Attention: Members of Cradle-to-Career Data Governing Board
Subject: **Elections for the Cradle-to-Career Governing Board
Chair and Vice-Chair (Agenda Item Three)**
Staff Contact: Marykate Cruz Jones, Chief of Strategic Initiatives and
Partnerships

At this meeting, the Governing Board (Board) will have the opportunity to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board.

Requested Action:

After review and consideration of the statement of interests submitted by Board members, Staff recommends that the Board approve the following two motions.

- ❖ Motion 1: Move to approve Gavin Payne for Chair of the Board.
- ❖ Motion 2: Move to approve [insert candidate name] for Vice-Chair of the Board.

Background:

The [Governance Manual](#) states that the Board “will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair to serve one year terms at the first meeting of the fiscal year. The Chair and the Vice-Chair may not be from the same institution. All eligible Governing Board members who are interested in serving as the Chair and Vice-Chair will submit a statement of interest for discussion and a vote at the first Governing Board meeting of each fiscal year. If a single candidate does not receive the minimum threshold of 14 votes, a runoff will be held between the top two candidates” (page 21). The Governance Manual also states that a “Board member may serve as Chair or Vice-Chair for more than one term, without any limits placed on the number of terms that may be served within their time appointed on the Board” (page 21). The newly elected Chair and Vice-Chair shall assume the duties of their respective positions at the conclusion of the meeting at which they were elected.

2026 Elections for Chair and Vice-Chair:

Statements of interest for Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board were due on July 15, 2026. The Office received one statement of interest for Chair, which can be found in Attachment A, and two statements of interest for Vice-Chair, which can be found in Attachment B.

Responsibilities of the Chair:

The Chair is responsible for facilitating Board meetings and setting agendas, acting as the Board's primary point of contact for the Office of Cradle-to-Career Data's (Office) Executive Director, supporting the Office staff with communications, and conducting the annual review of the Office Executive Director based on an established performance evaluation process. If the Chair position becomes vacant, the Vice-Chair will become Chair and appoint a Vice-Chair for the remainder of the term.

Responsibilities of the Vice-Chair:

The Vice-Chair is responsible for the Chair's assigned duties when the Chair is absent or otherwise unable to fulfill those duties, convening topical committees for tasks such as Advisory Board members, onboarding new Board members, and conducting exit interviews with outgoing Board members. The Vice-Chair is also responsible for working with the Chair to conduct the annual review of the Office Executive Director and working with the Office to onboard new Advisory Board members. If the Vice-Chair position becomes vacant before the end of a term, the Chair will appoint a new Vice-Chair.

Gavin Payne
Statement of Interest: Board Chair Re-Election

I am asking my fellow Board Members to grant me the honor of continuing to serve as your Chair.

As we know, California has created a best-in-class public system that harnesses data from throughout the state. That information can inform good policy-making at multiple stages in the life paths of our young people to help them live their best, most productive, and most fulfilling lives.

We have much to be proud of in shepherding the system from its start-up mode into a fully functioning operation with these key milestones: ingesting huge amounts of historical data and regularizing annual data submission, releasing our first public dashboard, adding key new workforce data providers, and piloting our new secure data enclave.

The actions we have taken so far -- and the crucial work we still have ahead of us in our new Strategic Plan -- will help fully realize the potential of the C2C System. I would be honored to continue to help lead us in that process.

Brief Biography:

I consult nationally on K-20 education policy issues with philanthropy, not-for-profits, advocacy organizations, and businesses.

Previously, I served for three years as the U.S. Director of Policy, Advocacy, & Communications for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Prior to that, I served for over two decades in California as its Chief Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction and as a Chief of Staff in the State Senate.

Currently, I sit on the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, the Data Quality Campaign Board, and our own C2C Board.

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Vice Chair Statement: Robert Garcia Tagorda

I humbly ask the Cradle-to-Career Data System Governing Board to consider my candidacy for Vice Chair.

In light of the rapidly changing California landscape, leadership consistency is at a premium. It is important for C2C to continue making a significant impact in the state, particularly for the most underserved Californians, while ensuring organizational stability. I have played a leading role on the Governing Board since its inception. I am committed to providing ongoing support and partnership to both my fellow Governing Board members and our Executive Director so that the Office remains a beacon of good governance.

Previously, I have served as Board Chair and, on three separate occasions, been called upon to contribute as Chair Elect / Vice Chair. I have had the privilege of serving on C2C's main committees, including those on the Strategic Plan, the Executive Director Review, the Governance Manual, and the Advisory Board Selection. I have made an impact across the full range of the Governing Board's work – always in collaboration with the C2C Office and in service of Californians.

By way of background, I have fifteen years of school system leadership experience from one of the largest districts in our state. I have spearheaded partnerships between P-12, higher education, workforce, nonprofit, and civic institutions, most notably a “College Promise” initiative that earned the Governor's Innovation Award in 2015. I have managed \$40 million of services for students, parents, and schools. I bring a local, independent, and practice-driven perspective that would be beneficial to the Vice Chair role.

Jessica Moldoff

Candidate Statement: Board Vice-Chair

I am submitting my name to my fellow Board Members for consideration for the position of Vice-Chair.

I have been the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) representative to the Cradle-to-Career Governing Board since January 2023 and have worked at CSAC since January 2017, where I am currently the Deputy Director of the Research, Analysis, and Program Innovation Division.

My vision at CSAC has been twofold: actionable data and automating processes, and I hope to bring this into the role of Vice-Chair. Cradle-to-Career is on the precipice of launching the long-awaited data enclave, and I believe this is a critical moment for ensuring the longevity of the data system.

While on the Board, I have served on the Strategic Planning and the Executive Director Performance Ad Hoc Committees, and I have also presented multiple times on the ways that CSAC has been using data to eliminate administrative burden and expand access to higher education.

As a data provider partner, I have worked with the Office of Cradle-to-Career extensively, including streamlining the Cal Grant reporting requirements for public institutions by allowing C2C to report on their behalf. I hope that by taking a larger leadership role on the Board, I will be able to facilitate the use of data beyond my own agency for the betterment of California's students and families.