

Cradle-to-Career Data Governing Board Staff Report

Date Report Issued: August 3, 2026
Attention: Members of Cradle-to-Career Data Governing Board
Subject: **Lesson Plan Challenge and Joint Advisory Boards Meeting (Agenda Item Nine)**
Staff Contact: Marykate Cruz Jones, Chief of Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships

At this meeting, the Governing Board (Board) will have the opportunity to receive updates on the Office of California Cradle-to-Career Data System's (Office) Lesson Plan Challenge and key highlights from the Data and Tools and Community Engagement Joint Advisory Boards (Joint Advisory Boards) meeting. This staff report is broken down into two main sections, one, Lesson Plan Challenge, and two, Joint Advisory Boards Meeting.

Requested Action:

There is no requested action for this item. This is an informational item only.

Section One: Lesson Plan Challenge

The Office invited educators to design and submit a 45-60 minute lesson plan that incorporates the Student Pathways Dashboard to promote data literacy and empower students to use data as they explore education and career pathways. The Office received lesson plans from educators ranging from early education, to college readiness and preparation for high school students, and postsecondary courses that center data science, education policy, and research methods. This section provides an overview of the lesson plans that will be previewed at the August 12 Board meeting and ongoing opportunities to engage with future Lesson Plans.

Section One, Part A: Student Pathways Dashboard Lesson Plans

At the August 12 Board meeting, the Board will receive a preview on two Lesson Plans available as educational companion materials to the Student Pathways Dashboard on the California Cradle-to-Career Data System (C2C) website:

- ❖ [Funding Futures: Exploring K-12 Education Finance Equity with R](#) - submitted by Michael Chrzan
- ❖ [Understanding Education and Careers Through Data](#) - submitted by Jeffrey Yo

Educators are encouraged to utilize the lesson plans in their classroom to:

- ❖ Provide meaningful, real-world examples of diverse student backgrounds and educational journeys reflected in the Student Pathways Dashboard;
- ❖ Engage in conversations on what students should consider when choosing their academic paths;
- ❖ Teach data literacy skills by discussing concepts such as data suppression, data visualization, data-driven decision making, and more; and
- ❖ Explore different college and career pathways visible in the Student Pathways Dashboard, so students can see multiple pathways in the data.

Section One, Part B: Opportunities to Engage with the Lesson Plan Challenge

As the Office updates and develops new dashboards, educators will be able to upload lesson plans that incorporate C2C dashboards and data insights through the ongoing [submission link](#). The Office aims to uplift submitted lesson plans that help more educators incorporate C2C's data tools. These tools are designed with students and families in mind, and educators can implement them to increase data literacy skills and guide data-driven decision-making amongst their students.

Section Two: Joint Advisory Boards Meeting

On [July 15, 2026](#) the Office hosted the Joint Advisory Boards meeting. Key themes from the meeting included Advisory Board member engagement through collaborative learning, building shared ownership in C2C's work through collective commitment to the work, and strengthening feedback loops through calls to action to advance the work in their communities. This section highlights key takeaways from the meeting and provides an update on the 2026 Advisory Board Proposal Process.

Section Two, Part A: Key Takeaways

The following are key takeaways from the meeting:

- ❖ Advisory Board members engaged with the updated [Student Pathways Dashboard](#) through a collaborative mobile demonstration to build data literacy and proficiency in the usage of C2C tools.
- ❖ The Office asked Advisory Board members to tap into their C2C ambassadorship role to share the Student Pathways Dashboard with three friends, family, colleagues, and/or local communities and submit photos with the Office. These submissions will be woven into C2C's five year communications strategy, uplifting how Californians are using the tools.
- ❖ Nine [data provider](#) subject matter experts participated in the annual data provider question and answer session to share information about data only available through C2C's data providers.
- ❖ The Office celebrated the accomplishments and contributions of five Data and Tools Advisory Board (DTAB) and six Community Engagement Advisory Board (CEAB) members, found in Attachment A, who complete their three-year term on August 9, 2026.
- ❖ To strengthen Advisory Board member engagement and shared ownership, the Office concluded the meeting with an exit ticket activity, asking Advisory Board members to commit to a specific call to action shared in the meeting to advance the work and foster shared ownership in their communities.

Section Two, Part B: 2026 Advisory Board Proposal Process

At the July 15 Joint Advisory Board meeting, members had an opportunity to:

- ❖ Participate in a question and answer session with data provider subject matter experts to learn about additional information that might be useful to access through C2C ([Governance Manual](#), page 34);
- ❖ Discuss the nine public proposals received and housed in the [proposal repository](#);
- ❖ Ideate on member proposal ideas and areas of common interest; and
- ❖ Identify opportunities to collaborate on joint proposals and/or co-sponsorship.

Advisory Board members have until Wednesday, August 19, 2026 to:

- ❖ Submit their own proposal form;
- ❖ Submit a joint proposal form with no more than five members;
- ❖ Sponsor a proposal form submitted by members of the public with no more than two members; or
- ❖ Further refine a proposal submitted by member(s) of the public or a member from a previous year.

Data and Tools Advisory Board

Lisa Catanzarite, PhD (She/Her)

Prismatic Research and Strategy



Dr. Catanzarite is President of Prismatic Research & Strategy, a California nonprofit delivering rigorous research, evaluation, and strategy development to drive impact—centering equity in advancing educational attainment, economic mobility, and community development. In her previous role as Vice President at UNITE-LA, Dr. Catanzarite built the Research & Evaluation department, overseeing research, evaluation, and strategic learning, and co-leading strategic planning and anti-racism efforts. Prior to moving into nonprofits, Dr. Catanzarite spent much of

her career in academia at UCLA, UC San Diego, and Washington State University as a tenured professor and senior research sociologist. Published, peer-reviewed research centers on labor markets, education, gender, race/ethnicity, immigration, and poverty. Dr. Catanzarite completed a bachelor's degree in history, master's degrees in education and sociology, and a Ph.D. in sociology (Stanford University), as well as a post-doctoral fellowship in Sociology (UCLA). Recent professional service includes the Urban Institute's *Data to Action Campaign for Parenting Students Advisory Board*; National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine *Advisory Group for Evaluation of Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) Compensation Data*; Public Policy Institute of California *Data Collaborative*; and USC *Neighborhood Data for Social Change Steering Committee*.

Diana Harlick (She/Her)

San Mateo County of Education



Diana Harlick leads preschool to third grade instructional improvement supports, data strategy and evaluation for The Big Lift (www.thebiglift.org) – an eight-district collective impact initiative to increase the percentage of children reading proficiently at third grade. Throughout the course of her career, Diana has led or co-led several multi-partner, multi-sector countywide early childhood initiatives and evaluation studies, combining partnership development, program development and data development seamlessly to scale high impact interventions for vulnerable and at-risk young children. She has built an integrated, longitudinal, multi-district preschool to third grade (P-3) data strategy that provides actionable data tools for a range of local stakeholders, and that fills the preschool to third grade data void that exists in most other places. She is a recognized thought leader at the intersection of early childhood programming, data and assessment, contributing to many statewide reports and conferences. Diana holds a Master's degree in Public Administration and a Bachelor's degree in Sociology & French.

Helen Norris (She/Her)

Retired, Formerly at Chapman University



Helen Norris recently retired from Chapman University, where she served as CIO for 11 years. She previously served in leadership roles at California State University, Sacramento and UC Berkeley. She is recognized as a national leader in Cybersecurity and testified before the US Senate in 2022 on the state of Cybersecurity in Higher Education. Helen was recently awarded the EDUCAUSE Leadership Award ([2025 Leadership Award Recipient | EDUCAUSE](#)).

Diana Phuong (She/Her)
Braven



Diana Phuong is the Executive Director of Braven in the Bay Area, which she joined at San José State as Site Director in January 2020 and in her first year, adapted the core Accelerator Course to an entirely virtual context to much success. Prior to Braven, Diana engaged counties, districts, and schools in integrated STEAM education by leveraging hands-on learning as a Partnership Director for a local nonprofit, RAFT. She launched a RAFT STEAM Summer Program through joint funding as a 4.0 Schools Tiny Fellow. Prior to that, Diana spent a decade in teaching and high school administration. Her teaching began as a Teach For America Fellow in Memphis, TN, where she taught 3rd-5th grade English

as a Second Language. Diana earned her Bachelor's in English from the University of California-Irvine and a Master's in Education from Christian Brothers University.

Jacob (Oliver) Schak (He/Him)
Santa Clara County, Behavioral Health Services Department



Oliver Schak is a Senior Research and Evaluation Specialist for Santa Clara County's Behavioral Health Services Department, where he creates data tools and analyses that benchmark the performance of mental health and substance use treatment programs. Additionally, Oliver is a nationally recognized expert on higher education affordability and finance, and he has an extensive repertoire of working with education data for decision-makers, and shepherding data tools for consumers. He previously served as Research Director at The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS) and

Associate Director of Higher Education Research and Analytics at The Education Trust. One of his crowning achievements was helping to launch the College Scorecard, while he served at the U.S. Department of Education. A native of Minneapolis, Oliver

graduated from Carleton College with a bachelor's degree in economics and completed his Master of Public Policy degree at the University of California — Berkeley.

Community Engagement Advisory Board

Lorenzo Gamboa, EdD (He/Him)

Santa Clara University



Lorenzo Gamboa is a proud first-generation indigenous Mexican college graduate and Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Admission at his alma mater, Santa Clara University. He holds a bachelors, a masters, an MBA and Doctorate degree in Education. He is most proud of being a husband, father, son, brother and community advocate for those striving to navigate the waters of higher education and being able to share his own life experience to the knowledge of this field. His ultimate goal in life is to leave a legacy his kids can follow and be proud of.

Adam Gottlieb (He/Him)

LA's Best



Adam Gottlieb is the Senior Director of Policy & Partnerships at LA's Best, a Los Angeles-based nonprofit focused on Expanded Learning in Los Angeles. Previously, Adam served as Director for Postsecondary Strategy & Policy at UNITE-LA, leading the L.A. Region K-16 Collaborative and a policy agenda dedicated to postsecondary access and completion. 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 has been a member of the University of Redlands Alumni Board of Directors and University Board of Trustees as well as a

volunteer and advisor of several nonprofit organizations and institutions supporting community access to public and private services.

Karina Lopez (She/Her/Ella)

Compton College EOPS/CARE/Next Up Program



Karina Lopez is a Tenured Counselor for the EOPS/CARE/Next Up Program at Compton College. In her role she has the blessing of working with diverse students that are first-generation, low-income, single parents, AB540, and/or current and former foster youth. She mentors them to ensure they successfully complete college and accomplish their academic, professional and personal aspirations. She has worked in higher education for 10 years. She previously worked at Pasadena City College and Mt. San Antonio College as an EOPS/CARE/Next Up Adjunct Counselor. She is proud

to be the first in her family to graduate high school and attend/graduate college. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from California State University, Northridge (CSUN) and Masters in Educational Counseling from University of Southern California (USC).

Carla Lopez-Valdes, EdD (She/Her)

Para Los Niños



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 (He/Him)

Student at University of California, Berkeley



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 (She/Her)

Campaign for College Opportunity



Dr. Alexis Takagi is a Research Analyst at the Campaign for College Opportunity. Alexis is a proud first-generation California community college transfer student and student advocate, she discovered her love of education and its transformative power at Foothill College, where she earned her AA in Social Sciences before transferring to Santa Clara University, where she completed her BA in Communications with high honors and later her EdD in Social Justice Leadership in Higher Education from the 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, where she served as the student representative for the independent nonprofit sector. As a student affairs practitioner-researcher, Alexis committed to advancing equity and access in higher

education through a student-centered approach that amplifies student voices and removes barriers to opportunity.