

Cradle-to-Career Data and Tools Advisory Board Staff Report

Date Report Issued: September 16, 2026
Attention: Members of Data and Tools Advisory Board
Subject: **Connecting Member Ambassadorship with Strategic Plan and 12-month Work Plan (Agenda Item Six)**
Staff Contact: Marykate Cruz Jones, Chief of Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships

California Cradle-to-Career Data System's (C2C) 2026-31 strategic plan sets shared priorities for the next five years, and the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 work plan sets the direction for the work C2C will complete over the next year. At this meeting, The Data and Tools Advisory Board (DTAB) will reflect on how members connect to those priorities and how their expertise and community connections can help advance both.

Requested Action:

This is an informational item. To prepare for this meeting, the Office of California Cradle-to-Career Data System (Office) asked DTAB members to:

- ❖ Complete the affinity map survey by Friday, September 4, 2026; and
- ❖ Review the 2026-31 [strategic plan](#) and FY 2026-27 annual [work plan](#).

Background:

C2C's strategic plan sets the Office's priorities for the next five years. The Governing Board (Board) approved the plan at its [February 25, 2026](#) meeting, following an extensive, user-centered design process that included input from Advisory Board members through exit interviews and public meetings. The plan establishes five goals:

- ❖ Being California's trusted source of linked statewide data;
- ❖ Creating data insights and tools Californians can use;
- ❖ Providing equitable access to information and tools;
- ❖ Building a flexible and secure data system; and
- ❖ Strengthening C2C's organizational and operational culture.

At the [August 12, 2026](#) Board meeting, the Board approved the FY 2026-27 work plan, which sets out the specific work C2C will complete this year in support of the strategic plan.

Members as Trusted Ambassadors:

Pursuant to [Education Code Section 10865 \(b\)\(1\)\(A\)](#), the DTAB provides feedback to the Board on whether the data system is providing actionable information and identifies ways to improve access to that information. Members are selected for their diverse perspectives, lived experiences, community relationships, and subject matter expertise.

As C2C's Advisory Boards continue to evolve, the Office needs members to step forward as trusted ambassadors — connecting C2C with communities, sharing why this work matters, and bringing community perspectives back into the work. To support this, the Office asked members to complete an affinity map survey identifying their expertise and connections. The Affinity Map in Attachment A helps the Office match members with future opportunities, and helps members connect with each other around shared strengths.

Member Reflection and Deliberation:

At the September 30, 2026 DTAB meeting, members will begin deliberation by identifying **one goal** in the strategic plan that resonated with them and reflect on the following questions:

- ❖ Why did this goal resonate with you?
- ❖ What would achieving this goal mean for your community?
- ❖ How can your expertise and community connections help advance this goal?
- ❖ What support do you need from C2C, and how can we work together to make this happen?

These questions are intended to help members identify how expertise and community connections help advance C2C's priorities.

Data and Tools Advisory Board Affinity Map

NAME: Cheuk, Tina

AFFILIATION: California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Advanced Understanding: Higher Education

Advanced Understanding: Language Access /Multilingual Communities

Strong Understanding: K-12 Education Practitioners

Strong Understanding: PreK-12 Education Systems

Strong Understanding: Adult/Continuing Education & Non-Traditional Students

COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

Central Region – Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Stanislaus, Tulare, and Tuolumne Counties

Teachers and Educators

Higher Education Staff and Faculty

First-Generation and Non-Traditional Student Support

Parents, Families and Guardians

NAME: Khanna, Ritu

AFFILIATION: San Francisco Unified School District

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Deep Knowledge: K-12 Education Practitioners

Deep Knowledge: Research and Evaluation

Deep Knowledge: College and Career Pathways

Deep Knowledge: Data Literacy

Advanced Understanding: PreK-12 Education Systems

COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

Bay Area – Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, Solano, and Sonoma Counties

South Coast Region – Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties

Teachers and Educators

Administrators

Informal Educators

NAME: Mehta, Renay

AFFILIATION: Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Strong Understanding: Student, Family and Community Engagement

Working Knowledge: K-12 Education Practitioners

Working Knowledge: Research and Evaluation

Working Knowledge: PreK-12 Education Systems

Basic Understanding: Higher Education

COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

Inland Deserts Region – Imperial, Inyo, Mono, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties

Teachers and Educators

Administrators

Higher Education Staff and Faculty

Workers, Job Seekers, and Career Changers

NAME: Millán, Daniel

AFFILIATION: City of Los Angeles Youth Development Department

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Deep Knowledge: Research and Evaluation

Advanced Understanding: Student, Family and Community Engagement

Advanced Understanding: Higher Education

Strong Understanding: College and Career Pathways

Strong Understanding: Data Literacy

COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

South Coast Region – Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties

Urban Communities

Undocumented, Immigrant, and Mixed-Status Communities

Low-Income and Economically Marginalized Communities

Latinx Communities

NAME: Ortiz Villar, Myrtha

AFFILIATION: Students Rising Above

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Advanced Understanding: K-12 Education Practitioners

Advanced Understanding: Higher Education

Advanced Understanding: College and Career Pathways

Advanced Understanding: Data Literacy

Strong Understanding: Language Access /Multilingual Communities

COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

Bay Area – Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, Solano, and Sonoma Counties

Low-Income and Economically Marginalized Communities

First-Generation and Non-Traditional Student Support

LGBTQ+ Communities

Immigrant and Refugee Communities

NAME: Reed, Lauren

AFFILIATION: Oakland Promise

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Deep Knowledge: Research and Evaluation

Advanced Understanding: Data Literacy

Strong Understanding: Higher Education

Strong Understanding: Data Privacy and Data Suppression

Working Knowledge: K-12 Education Practitioners

COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

Bay Area – Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, Solano, and Sonoma Counties

Low-Income and Economically Marginalized Communities

First-Generation and Non-Traditional Student Support

Black and African American Communities

Latinx Communities

NAME: Schmidt-Temple, Cameron

AFFILIATION: XQ Institute

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Strong Understanding: Higher Education

Strong Understanding: College and Career Pathways

Strong Understanding: Data Literacy

Working Knowledge: K-12 Education Practitioners

Working Knowledge: Research and Evaluation

COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

Bay Area – Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, Solano, and Sonoma Counties

Higher Education Staff and Faculty

Low-Income and Economically Marginalized Communities

First-Generation and Non-Traditional Student Support

Black and African American Communities

NAME: Tarasova, Iulia

AFFILIATION: City of Roseville

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Deep Knowledge: Higher Education

Deep Knowledge: College and Career Pathways

Advanced Understanding: Data Literacy

Advanced Understanding: Language Access /Multilingual Communities

COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

North Central Region – Sacramento, San Joaquin, El Dorado, Lake, Nevada, Placer, Sierra, Sutter, Plumas, Yolo, and Yuba Counties

Suburban Communities

Undocumented, Immigrant, and Mixed-Status Communities

First-Generation and Non-Traditional Student Support

Workers, Job Seekers, and Career Changers

NAME: Unda, Viviana

AFFILIATION: El Camino Community College District

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Deep Knowledge: Research and Evaluation

Deep Knowledge: Higher Education

Deep Knowledge: Data Privacy and Data Suppression

Deep Knowledge: Data Literacy

Deep Knowledge: Language Access /Multilingual Communities

COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

South Coast Region – Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties

Administrators

Higher Education Staff and Faculty

Latinx Communities

NAME: Watson, John

AFFILIATION: San Diego County Office of Education

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Deep Knowledge: Research and Evaluation

Deep Knowledge: PreK-12 Education Systems

Advanced Understanding: K-12 Education Practitioners

Advanced Understanding: College and Career Pathways

Advanced Understanding: Data Literacy

COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

South Coast Region – Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties

Urban Communities

Undocumented, Immigrant, and Mixed-Status Communities

Workers, Job Seekers, and Career Changers

Latinx Communities

NAME: Yee, Winnie

AFFILIATION: Graduate Student at University of California, Irvine

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Advanced Understanding: Higher Education

Strong Understanding: Research and Evaluation

Strong Understanding: College and Career Pathways

Strong Understanding: Data Literacy

Working Knowledge: K-12 Education Practitioners

COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

Bay Area – Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, Solano, and Sonoma Counties

South Coast Region – Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties

Low-Income and Economically Marginalized Communities

LGBTQ+ Communities

Immigrant and Refugee Communities