

Cradle-to-Career Community Engagement Advisory Board

Staff Report

Date Report Issued: October 1, 2026
Attention: Members of Community Engagement 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 Community Engagement Advisory Board (CEAB) 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 \(b\)\(1\)\(B\)](#), the CEAB provides feedback to the Board on whether the data system is providing actionable information and identifies ways the managing entity is creating strong feedback loops with data users, supporting evidence-based decision-making and analytical capacity, and ensuring equitable access to actionable information.

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 October 14, 2026 CEAB 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.

Community Engagement Advisory Board Affinity Map

NAME: Butler, Omar

AFFILIATION: New Door Ventures

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Deep Knowledge: Student, Family and Community Engagement

Deep Knowledge: Higher Education

Deep Knowledge: Dual Enrollment Programs and Policies

Advanced Understanding: PreK-12 Education Systems

Basic Understanding: 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

Urban Communities

Low-Income and Economically Marginalized Communities

First-Generation and Non-Traditional Student Support

Black and African American Communities

NAME: Carmesin, Danielle

AFFILIATION: Ferndale Unified School District

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Deep Knowledge: K-12 Education Practitioners

Working Knowledge: Research and Evaluation

Strong Understanding: Student, Family and Community Engagement

Basic Understanding: PreK-12 Education Systems

COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

Northern Region – Del Norte, Humboldt, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity Counties

Teachers and Educators

Administrators

Classified Staff

Parents, Families and Guardians

NAME: Gonzalez, Natalia

AFFILIATION: Riverside County Office of Education

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Deep Knowledge: K-12 Education Practitioners

Deep Knowledge: Student, Family and Community Engagement

Advanced Understanding: PreK-12 Education Systems

Strong Understanding: Research and Evaluation

Working Knowledge: Higher Education

COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

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

Teachers and Educators

Undocumented, Immigrant, and Mixed-Status Communities

Latinx Communities

NAME: Grattidge, Abigail

AFFILIATION: California Polytechnic State University, Humboldt

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Deep Knowledge: Higher Education

Deep Knowledge: College and Career Pathways

Advanced Understanding: Dual Enrollment Programs and Policies

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

Strong Understanding: Research and Evaluation

COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

Northern Region – Del Norte, Humboldt, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity Counties

Rural and Frontier Communities

Low-Income and Economically Marginalized Communities

First-Generation and Non-Traditional Student Support

Workers, Job Seekers, and Career Changers

NAME: Johnson, Marisa

AFFILIATION: Campaign for College Opportunity

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Advanced Understanding: Higher Education

Strong Understanding: Student, Family and Community Engagement

Strong Understanding: Dual Enrollment Programs and Policies

Strong Understanding: Adult and Continuing Education and Non-Traditional Students

Strong Understanding: Language Access /Multilingual Communities

COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

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

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

Higher Education Staff and Faculty

Rural and Frontier Communities

Low-Income and Economically Marginalized Communities

NAME: Jones, Dar'rell

AFFILIATION: Blu Educational Foundation

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Strong Understanding: College and Career Pathways

Strong Understanding: Student, Family and Community Engagement

Working Knowledge: Higher Education

Working Knowledge: Dual Enrollment Programs and Policies

Some Familiarity: K-12 Education Practitioners

COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

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

Low-Income and Economically Marginalized Communities

First-Generation and Non-Traditional Student Support

Parents, Families and Guardians

Black and African American Communities

NAME: Maestas, Juliet

AFFILIATION: Hoopa Valley Tribe

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Deep Knowledge: Research and Evaluation

Deep Knowledge: Student, Family and Community Engagement

Deep Knowledge: Higher Education

Deep Knowledge: College and Career Pathways

Deep Knowledge: Adult/Continuing Education & Non-Traditional Students

COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

Northern Region – Del Norte, Humboldt, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity Counties

Administrators

Higher Education Staff and Faculty

Rural and Frontier Communities

Tribal Communities and Indigenous Families

NAME: Rasso, Vincent

AFFILIATION: University of California Student Association

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Deep Knowledge: Student, Family and Community Engagement

Advanced Understanding: Higher Education

Working Knowledge: Data Literacy

Basic Understanding: College and Career Pathways

Some Familiarity: K-12 Education Practitioners

COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

Higher Education Staff and Faculty

Undocumented, Immigrant, and Mixed-Status Communities

Low-Income and Economically Marginalized Communities

First-Generation and Non-Traditional Student Support

Latinx Communities