Welcome to the California Community Colleges Basic Needs Summit!

More than ever before, colleges are seeking innovative and best practices to address basic needs insecurity among their students. To support their efforts, the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office, in partnership with community colleges throughout the state, is pleased to host the first-ever Basic Needs Summit.

The Basic Needs Summit includes keynote addresses from both Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley and Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab, a nationally recognized researcher, professor, and founder of the Wisconsin HOPE Lab - the nation’s only translational research laboratory seeking ways to make college more affordable.

The Summit includes participants, panelists, and presenters from many areas of expertise offering ideas for best practices, partnerships, policy, and more. Workshops and panel presentations cover topics including food security, housing, health and mental health services, and college affordability.

Participants will leave the summit with practical strategies to implement at their campuses to better support the basic needs of their students.
SUMMIT AGENDA

THURSDAY, APRIL 26

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
**Registration and Coffee**  
Grand Ballroom Foyer

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM  
**Welcome by Vice Chancellor Rhonda Mohr**  
**Address by Board of Governor Valerie Lynne Shaw**  
Grand Ballroom

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
**Opening Keynote: Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab**  
Grand Ballroom

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM  
**Lunch**  
Grand Ballroom

1:30 PM - 2:00 PM  
**Keynote: California Community College Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley**  
Grand Ballroom

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM  
**Breakout Session A**

  A1: **Strategic Partnerships for Addressing Students’ Basic Needs - Evidence from Around the Country**  
  Capitol Salon A

  A2: **Meeting Basic Needs with Student Financial Aid**  
  Capitol Salon B

  A3: **Innovative Strategies in Taking a Holistic Approach to Overcoming Non-Academic Barriers**  
  Capitol Salon C

  A4: **California Community Colleges Health and Mental Health Programs – A Vital Link to Addressing Basic Needs and Non-Academic Barriers to Success on Campus**  
  Capitol Salon D

  A5: **“There’s No Place Like Home” - Guiding Homeless Students on the Path to Permanent Housing**  
  Sacramento Room

3:45 PM - 4:45 PM  
**Breakout Session B**

  B1: **Housing Homeless Students: Jovenes' College Success Initiative**  
  Capitol Salon A

  B2: **Innovative and Common-Sense Solutions to Address Hunger on Campus**  
  Capitol Salon B

  B3: **Unpacking California College Affordability**  
  Capitol Salon C

  B4: **Best Practices to Serve Resilient Students, a Partnership with Imperial County Department of Social Services**  
  Capitol Salon D

  B5: **CalFresh Outreach for College Students, Part I**  
  Sacramento Room
SUMMIT AGENDA

FRIDAY, APRIL 27

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM  Breakfast  
Grand Ballroom

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM  Student Presentation  
Grand Ballroom

10:15 AM - 11:15 AM  Breakout Session C  
C1: Contra Costa Coordinated Entry Housing Services  
Capitol Salon A
C2: State and Federal Legislative and Policy Updates  
Capitol Salon B
C3: Taking the Next Step: Partnering with School Districts to Help Homeless Youth Transition to College  
Capitol Salon C
C4: Food Bank Partnerships to Address Student Hunger  
Capitol Salon D
C5: Keeping the Promise of College Opportunity: Strengthening Transfer and Remedial Education Redesign  
Sacramento Room

11:30 AM - 12:15 PM  Lunch  
Grand Ballroom

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM  Breakout Session D: “Deeper Dive Workshops”  
D1: Supporting Homeless College Students: Legal Obligations and Best Practices  
Capitol Salon A
D2: Connecting Basic Needs Supports to Guided Pathways for Student Success  
Capitol Salon B
D3: CalFresh Outreach for College Students, Part II  
Capitol Salon C
D4: Practitioners Roundtable  
Capitol Salon D
General sessions are located in the Grand Ballroom circled in yellow above.

Breakout sessions are located in the Capitol Salons/Sacramento Room located on the lower level of the hotel facilities, circled in green above.
Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab, Ph.D. is Professor of Higher Education Policy and Sociology at Temple University, and Founder of the Wisconsin HOPE Lab, the nation’s only translational research laboratory seeking ways to make college more affordable. She is best known for her innovative research on food and housing insecurity in higher education, having led the two largest national studies on the subject, and for her work on making public higher education free. She is the recipient of the William T. Grant Foundation’s Faculty Scholars Award and the American Educational Research Association’s Early Career Award, and in 2016 POLITICO magazine named her one of the top 50 people shaping American politics. Her latest book, *Paying the Price: College Costs, Financial Aid, and the Betrayal of the American Dream* (University of Chicago, 2016), is an Amazon best-seller and a 2018 winner of the Grawemeyer Award, and has been featured on The Daily Show with Trevor Noah, the New York Review of Books, and CSPAN’s Book TV, among other venues. The Chronicle of Higher Education calls her “a defender of impoverished students and a scholar of their struggles,” and she is ranked 7th in the nation among education scholars according to Education Week.

Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley was appointed by the California Community Colleges Board of Governors as chancellor for the California Community Colleges beginning December 19, 2016. Eloy Ortiz Oakley is best known throughout California and the nation for implementing innovative programs and policies that help students succeed in college. Oakley strongly believes that California’s emerging economies demand a workforce with quality credentials and that the state’s 114 community colleges play a pivotal role in moving California forward. Under Oakley’s leadership, the Long Beach Community College District has received numerous awards and recognitions for its efforts to improve student completion rates and for directly supporting a strong small business and entrepreneurship eco-system throughout the greater Southern California region. Oakley himself is a community college success story. After serving four years in the U.S. Army, he enrolled at Golden West College. He then transferred to the University of California, Irvine where he received his degrees of Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Analysis and Design and Master of Business Administration.

The Student Senate for California Community Colleges works to promote and safeguard access for current and future students to California public higher education in accordance with the Master Plan for Higher Education through system participatory governance, legislative and policy advocacy, and regional support and development.

Students 4 Students (S4S), formerly Bruin Shelter, is a UCLA registered campus organization that operates a shelter for students experiencing homelessness in the greater Los Angeles area, regardless of their higher education institution. We believe deeply in the power of a diploma, and helping our community re-examine assumptions about what experiencing homelessness means.
BREAKOUT SESSIONS

DAY 1 BREAKOUT SESSION A: 2:30 - 3:30 PM

A1: Strategic Partnerships for Addressing Students’ Basic Needs - Evidence from Around the Country

Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab, Professor of Higher Education Policy and Sociology at Temple University and Founder of the Wisconsin HOPE Lab

In this workshop, Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab will discuss programs taking place at community colleges outside of California that aim to reduce food and/or housing insecurity. She will review their goals and implementation stories, funding, and efforts to document impact.

Location: Capitol Salon A

A2: Meeting Basic Needs with Student Financial Aid

Bryan Dickason, Specialist, Student Planning and Development, California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office

During this session, participants will learn about federal and state financial aid eligibility and application requirements. This assistance is essential to meeting the basic needs of homeless and food-insecure students. Completing the FAFSA and Dream Act Applications will be discussed.

Location: Capitol Salon B

A3: Innovative Strategies in Taking a Holistic Approach to Overcoming Non-Academic Barriers

Alouette Cervantes-Salazar, Financial Wellness Coordinator, East Los Angeles College
Valentin Garcia, Vice President of Student Services, West Hills Lemoore College
Chad Thompson, Director, SparkPoint Center

Supporting students in meeting their basic needs is integral to their success. Non-academic barriers impact students in ways beyond the classroom. During this workshop, learn about some strategies and services that are helping students and their families overcome these barriers on their way to successfully achieving their educational and financial goals. Participants will learn how to better support historically underrepresented student populations by embedding these services into everyday practices, and will learn about community college-based strategies designed to provide students with a range of services, including:

- Education and employment advancement - education, job readiness, training, and placement;
- Income and work supports - access to student financial aid, public benefits, tax credits, and free tax assistance; and
- Financial services and asset building - financial education and effective financial management habits and services to help families build self-sufficiency, stabilize their finances, and become more economically competitive.

Location: Capitol Salon C
BREAKOUT SESSIONS

A4: California Community Colleges Health and Mental Health Programs – A Vital Link to Addressing Basic Needs and Non-Academic Barriers to Success on Campus

Laureen Campana, NP, MPH, Integrative Medicine Specialist, Coordinator of Health Services, Columbia College
Dr. Jeanne Harris-Caldwell, RN MSN CCRN PHN, Current President Elect of HSACCC, Director of Student Health Services, Saddleback College
Becky Perelli, RN, MSN, Recent Director of Health Services for City College of San Francisco and West Valley College

After a general overview of student health and mental health services in the California Community College system and presentation of key data, the panel will focus on the history of California Community College Health Service programs as spearheading responses to basic needs on campus. We will highlight best practices at select colleges. There will be time for questions, answers, and discussion.

Location: Capitol Salon D

A5: “There’s No Place Like Home”– Guiding Homeless Students on the Path to Permanent Housing

Ashley Rarick, THP+ Supervisor, Bill Wilson Center

Finding a place to live is a daunting task for anyone, especially young adults experiencing homelessness. Housing markets are increasingly competitive across the state. Rental costs are soaring. The barriers to securing a place to call home can seem insurmountable. This workshop will provide an array of practical tools for professionals assisting students in their housing search. Participants can expect to come away with clear and practical strategies for providing the best support possible to students in need of affordable housing.

Location: Sacramento Room

DAY 1 BREAKOUT SESSION B: 3:45 - 4:45 PM

B1: Housing Homeless Students: Jovenes’ College Success Initiative

Eric Hubbard, Director of Development and Strategic Partnerships, Jovenes, Inc.
Brianna Rodriguez, Peer Navigator and Student
Jamie Quiroz, Financial Aid Assistant Director, Cerritos College

In Los Angeles, a non-profit housing provider for homeless youth is taking its resources onto community college campuses to directly house homeless students. Learn how Jovenes is partnering with community colleges to reach out to homeless students and how housing support is helping homeless students succeed in school and life.

Location: Capitol Salon A

B2: Innovative and Common-Sense Solutions to Address Hunger on Campus

Rachel Sumekh, Founder and CEO, Swipe Out Hunger

Swipe Out Hunger partners with college campuses to end student hunger. Learn how dozens of colleges have taken on programs to address hunger such as partnering with campus retailers, becoming SNAP providers, or offering dining hall passes and farmers markets. Join CEO Rachel Sumekh in an interactive workshop on proven ways to leverage existing resources to address hunger. Swipe has led to 1.4 million meals and has been recognized by the Obama White House and The New York Times for their innovative approach to ending hunger.

Location: Capitol Salon B
B3: Unpacking California College Affordability
Laura Szabo-Kubitz, Associate California Program Director, The Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS)

As the cost of college rises, even more students rely on grants and loans to finance their higher education. There is growing acknowledgement that unaffordable college costs are holding students back, with low-income and underrepresented students in particular carrying the greatest burdens. This workshop will discuss the impact of California state financial aid policy, including the Cal Grant program, as well as other components of the 2018 state financial aid landscape.

Location: Capitol Salon C

B4: Best Practices to Serve Resilient Students, a Partnership with Imperial County Department of Social Services
Alexis Ayala, Student Success Specialist, Foster Youth Liaison, FYSI Regional Representative – Region 10, Imperial Valley College
Bianca Bisi, Student Equity Coordinator and Homeless Liaison, Imperial Valley College
Javier Duran, Deputy Director, Imperial County Department of Social Services
Dr. Martha O. Garcia, Vice President of Student Services, Acting Vice President of Academic Services, Imperial Valley College
Craig Pebley, Eligibility/FRC/Mobile Supervisor, Imperial County Department of Social Services

The purpose of the workshop is to provide best practices to support resilient students on campus and successfully develop and deliver basic needs services. In addition, the partnership with Imperial County Department of Social Services will be highlighted. The Department provides social services to students on campus in a mobile unit.

Location: Capitol Salon D

B5: CalFresh Outreach for College Students, Part I
Jenny Breed, Program Director, CSU Chico – Center for Healthy Communities
Elisa Chavez, Health Education Coordinator, CSU Chico – Center for Healthy Communities
Daren Lynne, Administrative Assistant to Vice President, Los Angeles Trade Tech College

The CalFresh Outreach for College Students, Part I session, will increase your understanding of campus food security and the CalFresh food assistance program. We will review the CalFresh program basic eligibility requirements and will specifically drill down into messaging, student eligibility, and prescreening. We will also review the enrollment process and learn about how one CCC District is working to get EBT CalFresh Restaurant Meal Program benefits available to students on campus. Part II will include a deeper dive into the details of the process during Day 2 of the Summit.

Location: Sacramento Room
**DAY 2 BREAKOUT SESSION C: 10:15 - 11:15 AM**

**C1: Contra Costa Coordinated Entry Housing Services**

Araceli Garcia, Youth Services Manager, Contra Costa County  
Feliz Jackl, Youth Continuum Life Skills Specialist, Contra Costa County  
Jamie Janette, Continuum of Care Planning and Policy Manager, Health, Housing and Homeless Services Division  
Contra Costa Health Services  
Jenny Robbins, Housing and Services Administrator, Contra Costa County

This workshop will focus on Contra Costa County’s recent implementation of the Coordinated Entry system, which is used to better assess and serve the needs of homeless populations. The workshop will also discuss Continuum of Care and Youth Services for homeless and housing-insecure youth in Contra Costa County.

*Location: Capitol Salon A*

**C2: State and Federal Legislative and Policy Updates**

Jessica Bartholow, Policy Advocate, Western Center on Law and Poverty  
Amy Ellen Duke Benfield, Senior Policy Analyst, Center for Law and Social Policy

An important element of supporting the basic needs of college students includes the development and implementation of effective federal and state legislation and policies. During this interactive session, participants will learn about recently passed and pending legislation associated with supporting the basic needs of college students. We also look forward to hearing from participants about how to improve federal financial aid to account for basic needs as the reauthorization of the federal Higher Education Act approaches. The session will include time for Q&A.

*Location: Capitol Salon B*

**C3: Taking the Next Step: Partnering with School Districts to Help Homeless Youth Transition to College**

Melanie Barbeau, McKinney Vento Liaison, San Juan Unified School District  
Cherie Chenoweth, President, Believes Family  
Barbara Duffield, Executive Director, SchoolHouse Connection  
Ardath Ferris, McKinney Vento Liaison, San Juan Unified School District

The Every Student Succeeds Act includes several new policies designed to help youth who experience homelessness transition successfully to post-secondary education. Learn about these new policies and practical strategies for partnering with the key school district personnel who are responsible for implementing them.

*Location: Capitol Salon C*
C4: Food Bank Partnerships to Address Student Hunger

Carlos “Tito” Altamirano, PCC Pathways Coordinator, Pasadena City College
Hilda Ayala, Programs Director, Los Angeles Regional Food Bank
Stephanie Nishio, Director of Programs, California Association of Food Banks

A highly effective way to address student hunger is pantry collaborations and CalFresh outreach in partnership with community food banks. This workshop will provide an overview of food banks and the resources they provide, as well as highlight the partnership between Pasadena City College and Los Angeles Regional Food Bank.

Location: Capitol Salon D

C5: Keeping the Promise of College Opportunity: Strengthening Transfer and Remedial Education Redesign

Sara Arce, Senior Policy Director, The Campaign for College Opportunity
Jessie Ryan, Executive Vice President, The Campaign for College Opportunity

As colleges move to implement guided pathways on their campuses, removing barriers to transfer and remedial education redesign are key pillars to student success. Learn about best practices and campus bright spots that are key to reducing time to degree, closing equity gaps, and improving student success.

Location: Sacramento Room

D1: Supporting Homeless College Students: Legal Obligations and Best Practices

Bianca Bisi, Student Equity Coordinator and Homeless Youth Liaison, Imperial Valley College
Shahera Hyatt, Director, California Homeless Youth Project
Deborah Pruitt, Program Manager, John Burton Advocates for Youth
Debbie Raucher, Project Director, John Burton Advocates for Youth

Assembly Bill 801, which went into effect last year, requires in part that each community college designate a homeless student liaison and provide priority registration and the California College Promise Grant to eligible homeless students. Understanding how to effectively implement these provisions, however, can be challenging, and what can be even more challenging is identifying and developing strategies that will most effectively support these students to succeed in college. This workshop will provide an overview of the research related to homeless students and the benefits currently available to them; help college staff understand the distinctions across programs regarding how to define and verify homeless status; and offer concrete examples of how to best serve this vulnerable population of students.

Location: Capitol Salon A
**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**D2: Connecting Basic Needs Supports to Guided Pathways for Student Success**

Cindy Lenhart, Senior Fellow, Achieving the Dream  
Jean Petty, Higher Education Consultant

This interactive workshop will focus on integrating and aligning non-academic pathways with Guided Pathways. Student success is dependent on solid academic and non-academic (basic needs) services that meet student needs. In this workshop, we will look at the four pillars of Guided Pathways. We will focus on internal and external services/partners needed for student success and how they can be holistically integrated to enhance persistence and completion.

*Location: Capitol Salon B*

**D3: CalFresh Outreach for College Students, Part II**

Jenny Breed, Program Director, CSU Chico – Center for Healthy Communities  
Elisa Chavez, Health Education Coordinator, CSU Chico – Center for Healthy Communities

The CalFresh for Students Part II session will: (1) share the application packet, including how to track applications; (2) review the three online application portals and ways to get assistor codes; (3) review the three versions of the paper application; (4) address the importance of follow-up; and (5) identify the resources needed to support students through possible hiccups and roadblocks during the 30-day process with the county social services department.

*Location: Capitol Salon C*

**D4: Practitioners Roundtable**

Laureen Campana, Coordinator of Health Service, Columbia College  
Alouette Cervantes-Salazar, Financial Wellness Program Coordinator, East Los Angeles College  
Dr. Martha O. Garcia, Vice President Student Services, Imperial Valley College  
Valentin Garcia, Vice President of Student Services, West Hills College Lemoore  
Nancy Grass, Associate Dean, Student Life, Santa Monica College  
Dr. Jeanne Harris-Caldwell, Director of Health Services, Saddleback College  
Lina Ladyzhenskaya, Case Management Coordinator, Santa Monica College  
Daren Lynne, Administrative Assistant to Vice President, Los Angeles Trade Tech College  
Becky Perelli, RN, MSN, Recent Director of Health Services for City College of San Francisco  
Chad Thompson, Director SparkPoint Center, Skyline College  
Michael Tuitasi, Vice President of Student Services, Santa Monica College

During this deep dive workshop, participants will have the opportunity to learn about the “nuts and bolts” of a wide variety of programs and services that colleges are offering to their students. The roundtable format will allow participants to dialog directly with faculty and staff from across the state regarding the supports they offer, how they got started, what barriers they faced, the solutions they identified, and how they sustain their efforts. Topics will include public benefit access, financial literacy and wellness, CalFresh Restaurant Meal Program on campus, collaborative college-county safety net services, health and mental health services, and food security programs.

*Location: Capitol Salon D*
Carlos “Tito” Altamirano, Pasadena City College, has been involved with Pasadena City College since 2001, where he enrolled after completing basic training and schooling for the United States Marines Corps. Carlos holds a bachelor’s in history and a M.Ed. in Educational Counseling, both from USC. He works in the Pathways program at PCC and has been involved in numerous committees and organizations on campus, including the Association of Latino Employees (ALE), Student Success Committee, Institutional Effectiveness Committee (IEC), and Student Equity, and he has been able to work with nearly every office on campus and with every type of student. He has been privileged to help with many initiatives, including the Lancer Pantry and the student favorite, the Mobile Food Pantry. He is a supporter and advocate for undocumented students on campus as part of the Safe Zone Coalition. For Carlos, student success isn’t just a saying, it is a way of life.

Sara Arce, The Campaign for College Opportunity, is the Senior Policy Director for the Campaign for College Opportunity. Sara helps lead the Campaign’s state policy and advocacy agenda to ensure students access and succeed in higher education. In this capacity, she has spearheaded efforts to create clearer paths and more equitable outcomes for tens of thousands of community college students across the state.

Alexis Ayala, Imperial Valley College, currently works to serve resilient students (foster youth, homeless, formerly incarcerated) in the EOPS program. Ms. Ayala’s main priority is to remove barriers and inequities faced by resilient students as they transition into the community college. Her educational background includes a bachelor's in sociology, Master of Public Administration, and Professional SDSU Certificate in Mental Health Recovery/Trauma Informed Care, and she is in the process of earning a M.Ed. in Education-Counseling.

Hilda Ayala, Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, is the Programs Director at the LA Regional Food Bank. A Los Angeles native, Hilda began her tenure at the Food Bank working as a CalFresh Outreach Worker in 2001. She oversees the Programs Department, which includes: the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), Mobile Food Pantry, Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), BackPack Program, Produce Distribution to Schools, Agency Delivery, Rapid Food Delivery Program, Children’s Breakfast Program, and the CalFresh Outreach Program. Hilda holds an A.A. in Health Science from Mount St. Mary’s University, and a B.S. in Health Administration with an emphasis in Gerontology from CSU Northridge.

Jessica Bartholow, Western Center on Law and Poverty, has been a policy advocate at the Western Center on Law and Poverty since 2009, and has nearly two decades of experience in anti-poverty organizing, advocacy, and program development at the local, state, and national level. She has led in the development and passage of several pieces of new law to expand opportunities for and protect the futures of low-income Californians. She is the chairperson of the California Asset Building Coalition and of the Programs and Policy Committee of the National Diaper Bank Network. Jessica holds a master’s degree in political science and has been awarded the Wellstone-Wheeler National Anti-Hunger Advocate of the Year Award and the Women’s Foundation of California’s Advocate of the Year Award. Her own story of how growing up poor has led her to her work as an anti-poverty advocate has been featured in The Nation and Le Monde.

Amy Ellen Duke Benfield, Center for Law and Social Policy is a senior policy analyst with CLASP's Center for Postsecondary and Economic Success. Ms. Duke-Benfield’s focus is access to and success in postsecondary education and training for low-income students. She analyzes and advocates for policies that better serve low-income adults and other non-traditional students and provides technical assistance to federal and state advocates and governments in these areas. She also directed CLASP’s Benefits Access for College Completion initiative, which sought to increase access to public benefits and financial aid for low-income students at colleges across the country. She holds an undergraduate degree from Swarthmore College and a master's degree from Emory University.
Bianca Bisi, Imperial Valley College, serves as the Student Equity Coordinator and Homeless Youth Liaison, and is an advocate for disproportionately impacted students at Imperial Valley College. She designs and evaluates intentional, informed programs to ensure the academic success and wellbeing of resilient students.

Jenny Breed, Center for Healthy Communities, brings a wealth of expertise and a passion for social justice to CHC, where her work is driven by the belief that everyone deserves access to healthy food and active living environments. With degrees in Child Development and Human Development, and over 25 years of experience working in the community, health, and education fields, Jenny has led CHC’s CalFresh Outreach prime contract since 2011. As the Program Director, Jenny is proud of the CHC team that supports five Far North community-based organizations, 11 CSU campuses, and many more college campuses across the state in developing CalFresh outreach, application assistance, and follow-up activities.

Laureen Campana, Columbia College, has held the position of Coordinator of Health Services for Columbia College for 18 years. She helped start the campus’ first food pantry in 2004 with small staff donations, and it now serves over 100 families monthly with canned/fresh/frozen foods as an official federal site. She also assists with providing Mental Health services and hygiene services for homeless students, and has recently opened a clothing exchange program.

Alouette Cervantes-Salazar, East Los Angeles College, has been coordinating East Los Angeles College’s Financial Wellness Program since Fall 2015 and is certified as a FPQPTM (Financial Paraplanner Qualified Professional). She has over 25 years of experience working with community organizations and educational institutions, and has enjoyed working with people on managing their finances for the last nine years – and super likes coming up with acronyms to help people change their financial management habits. She’ll be happy to share them with you!

Elisa Chavez, Center for Healthy Communities, is passionate about creating a more humane and healthy world. She is glad she works for a center that supports healthy lifestyles and college students statewide. Elisa holds a B.A. in Sociology, a M.A. in Human Development, and a Master of Public Administration. Elisa coordinates the data analysis and reporting components for CHC’s CalFresh Outreach contract. She also regularly travels to other college campuses to provide CalFresh Outreach Trainings.

Bryan Dickason, California Community College Chancellor’s Office, is a Student Financial Aid Specialist at the Community College Chancellor’s Office. He has 32 years of Financial Aid experience.

Barbara Duffield, SchoolHouse Connection, is Executive Director of SchoolHouse Connection, a national organization working to overcome homelessness through education. For more than 20 years, she has bridged policy and practice in early care, education, housing, and homelessness.

Javier Duran, Imperial County, has worked with the Imperial County Department of Social Services for nearly 30 years and has worked in a number of different sections within the department, including Child Protection, Medi-Cal, Cal-Works, and Welfare to Work. Mr. Duran is currently a Deputy Director overseeing Universal Intakes for Eligibility, Cal-Works Ongoing, Family Resource Centers, Mobile Unit, and the Satellite Brawley Office. Mr. Duran has worked many of his years with the Department of Social Services reaching out to community resources in attempts to provide services to clients as well as seeking opportunities to provide outreach to the community.
Dr. Martha O. Garcia, Imperial Valley College, currently serves as Imperial Valley College’s Vice President for Student Services and Acting Vice President for Academic Services. She was previously responsible for developing and coordinating a 5.8 million-dollar California Career Pathways Trust Grant, Salud y Seguridad para la Comunidad Project. Dr. Garcia has developed a multitude of categorically funded programs focused on serving minority and underrepresented students. Through her successful grant writing competence, she has secured over 14 million dollars for Imperial Valley College, since 2009. Dr. Garcia is committed to making a difference for her students and her community.

Valentin Garcia, West Hills Lemoore, currently serves as the Vice President of Student Services at West Hills College Lemoore. He has also served as the Vice President of Student Services and Dean of Instruction at Porterville College. Prior to Porterville College, he worked at Taft College as the Associate Dean of Instruction and taught Sociology. Val has also worked as a Campus Director (University of La Verne – Kern Campus), Program Director (CSU Bakersfield), and high school instructor/counselor. Val is a proud graduate of a California Community College (A.A. Sociology, Bakersfield College). He received his Bachelor of Science in Sociology and Master of Science in Counseling from the University of La Verne, and is pursuing a Doctorate of Education in Organizational Leadership program at the University of La Verne.

Dr. Nancy Grass, Santa Monica College, received her Master of Arts in Communication Studies from CSU Northridge and her PhD in higher education from Capella University, where she researched methods for improving institutional communication climates in large public institutions. She's the author of Public Speaking in American English. Currently serving as Associate Dean of Student Life at Santa Monica College, Dr. Grass was a professor of Communication Studies for 19 years specializing in intercultural communication, public address, communication climate, and public sector management. Dr. Grass maintains a thriving communication consulting business serving both the public and private sectors, and continues to guest lecture at major universities on a variety of communication topics.

Dr. Jeanne Harris-Caldwell, Saddleback College, is a professional Registered Nurse whose education includes a doctorate in education, Master of Science in Nursing, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and an Associate of Arts in Science. Dr. Harris-Caldwell has experience in healthcare spanning over 25 years in a variety of settings, including Director of Student Health Services at Saddleback College, Executive Director of Patient Care Service, Professor of Nursing, Director of Nursing, and Director of Clinical Affairs. She has held various positions in senior hospital administration, program development, and theoretical and clinical education.

Eric Hubbard, Jovenes, Inc., is responsible for fundraising and communications efforts at Jovenes, as well as coordinating partnerships with local schools and stakeholders to create policy and housing solutions for homeless youth and students.

Shahera Hyatt, California Homeless Youth Project, is the Director of the California Homeless Youth Project, an initiative of the California Research Bureau focused on educating policymakers on the needs of homeless youth in California. Hyatt has authored several publications on the topic of youth homelessness, including policy briefs on LGBTQ youth as well as the nation’s first state action plan on ending youth homelessness. During the day she works to uplift the voices of marginalized youth, and at night she tells jokes at dive bars and comedy clubs all over Sacramento.

Jamie Janette, Contra Costa Health, is the Continuum of Care Planning and Policy Manager for the Contra Costa Health, Housing and Homeless Services division. Her primary role is to keep a big picture perspective on the homeless Continuum of Care, including HUD priorities and best practices around the country as well as community engagement with partners like law enforcement, elected officials, education, and faith communities.
Cindy Lenhart, Achieving the Dream, is a senior fellow with Achieving the Dream. In this role, Cindy is responsible for supporting community colleges in the Working Students Success Network to fundamentally redesign their integrated services for the express purpose of helping low-income students to persist, graduate, and attain a job with family-sustaining wages. Cindy has a M.S. in instructional effectiveness and a B.S. in secondary education. She was recently selected as a Provost’s Distinguished Graduate Fellow for Ph.D. Studies in the Graduate School of Education at Oregon State University.

Daren Lynne, Los Angeles Trade Tech College, serves as the assistant to the Vice President of Administration at Los Angeles Trade Tech College (LATT). Daren has worked in this capacity for five years, during which time she lead the implementation of the LATT food bank. She is currently working with the United States Department of Agriculture, seeking approval for LATT and other colleges within the District to participate in the CalFresh Restaurant Meals Program.

Stephanie Nishio, California Association of Food Banks, manages and supports a large network of partners who provide CalFresh outreach services throughout the state to address hunger in their communities. She holds an M.P.H. from UC Berkeley and a B.S. in Nutrition from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. She is also a Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist and previously taught nutrition classes at the community college level.

Craig Pebley, Imperial County, has worked for the Department of Social Services for the past ten years, and for two years he has been a supervisor over the Family Resource Centers and Mobile office. The Family Resource Centers and Mobile office are vital in providing outreach services to the diverse population of Imperial County. The county is spread out over 4,482 square miles, and in much of it adequate public transportation can be challenging.

Becky Perelli has served California community colleges for over 20 years, initially as Director of Student Health Services at West Valley College and more recently at City College of San Francisco. As an advanced practice nurse in community and mental health, she is highly skilled in the areas of student mental health, sexual assault prevention/intervention, health of student veterans, and student hunger response initiatives. Her research and legislative advocacy on behalf of California Community College students is ongoing. She holds a B.S. in Nursing from Boston University and a M.S. in Community and Mental Health Nursing from UCSF.

Jean Petty is a higher education consultant, former Dean of Community and Economic Development and statewide Executive Director of the Economic Development Network for the California Community Colleges, and faculty member in Business. She has a Bachelor of Science in Business from California State University, Fresno, and a Master of Science in Human Resources and Organization Development from the University of San Francisco. Jean has worked on community college campuses and on national higher education projects for the last 27 years.

Deborah Pruitt, John Burton Advocates for Youth, is an educator with over eighteen years’ experience teaching in California community colleges while also serving as a management consultant in the nonprofit sector. She currently serves as a Project Manager for John Burton Advocates for Youth.

Jamie Quiroz, Cerritos College, is the Financial Aid Assistant Director in the Financial Aid Office at Cerritos College and an Adjunct Counselor in the Counseling department. She has been serving the diverse population at Cerritos College for over 20 years.

Ashley Rarick, Bill Wilson Center, has been supervising the THP+ program at Bill Wilson Center for the past seven years, assisting hundreds of homeless former foster youth in obtaining permanent housing in Silicon Valley. With a background in domestic violence counseling and advocacy, Ms. Rarick brings a trauma-informed lens to the vital work of ensuring permanent housing is the reality for all clients served.
Debbie Raucher, John Burton Advocates for Youth, serves as the Director of the California College Pathways initiative for John Burton Advocates for Youth, which works to improve post-secondary educational outcomes for foster youth in California through training, technical assistance, and policy advocacy.

Brianna Rodriguez, Jovenes, Inc., brings her lived experience with homelessness as a student to her job as a Peer Navigator. She helps connect homeless students with Jovenes’ housing resources and integrate LA’s Coordinated Entry System into Cerritos College.

Jessie Ryan, The Campaign for College Opportunity, is the Executive Vice President for the Campaign for College Opportunity, where she leads the organization’s advocacy and policy efforts to increase the number of California students accessing higher education and impact the rate that students succeed in reaching their educational goals. A proud product of California’s Community Colleges and California State University System, she was elected to the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education in 2014. She holds a bachelor’s degree from San Francisco State University and her Master of Arts from Saint Mary’s College of California.

Rachel Sumekh, Swipe Out Hunger, is the Founder and CEO of Swipe Out Hunger. The organization is a leading force in addressing hunger amongst college students. Her work has been recognized by the Obama White House and The New York Times, and it landed her on the Forbes “30 Under 30” list. Rachel also serves on the boards of L.A. Kitchen and IKAR. She is a proud graduate of UCLA and says she is challenging the status quo of what it means to be a Typical Persian Girl.

Laura Szabo-Kubitz, The Institute for College Access and Success, has worked for the past decade on TICAS’s California team, focusing on the college affordability challenges faced by students across the state. In addition to research, policy analysis, and advocacy, Laura leads the Coalition of Californians for College Affordability, a diverse group of two dozen organizations united in strengthening state need-based financial aid.

Chad Thompson, Skyline College, is the Director for SparkPoint and Career Services at Skyline College in San Bruno California. SparkPoint and Career Services offer food pantry support, public benefits support, housing resource referrals, career coaching, financial coaching, scholarships, free legal clinic services, and free tax services to students and community members. The goal of these services is to address financial barriers so that participants can achieve their academic, career, financial and life goals.

Michael Tuitasi, Santa Monica College, was appointed Vice President of Student Affairs in 2008. He currently oversees the programs and areas that focus on student success, student engagement, and the student experience on campus. These areas include Counseling and Retention, Athletics, Campus Police and Safety, Student Health and Psychological Services, Student Life, Judicial Affairs, Disabled Students Programs and Services, Sustainability, EOP&S Program, Guardian Scholars, Veterans’ Resource Center, Career Services Center, CalWorks, TRIO Student Support Services, Pico Promise, Campus Alumni Relations, Child Care Center, Career Services Center, Transportation, Parking, Emergency Preparedness, and Special Programs at Santa Monica College.
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- Rosalinda Salazar, Sacramento City College
- Chad Thompson, Skyline College, Director SparkPoint Center
- Michael Tuitasi, Santa Monica College, Vice President of Student Affairs

Finally, we would like to recognize legislators, advocates, and a multitude of stakeholders who provide basic need supports to students as they try to improve their lives and future opportunities by pursuing post secondary education.