THE EDUCATION TRUST–WEST

EDUCATION EQUITY FORUM 2019

HYATT REGENCY LONG BEACH

The Education Trust–West

ACCELERATING THE MOVEMENT FOR EDUCATIONAL JUSTICE:

Racial Equity in California Schools and Colleges

EDUCATION EQUITY FORUM OVERVIEW

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH

12:00pm – 7:00pm — **REGISTRATION** ..... *Regency Foyer*

1:00pm – 5:00pm — **NATIONAL EQUITY PROJECT PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION:**
Leading for Equity in Turbulent Times:
Mitigating Bias, Reimagining Structures & Creating Cultures of Belonging ..... *Beacon A*

5:00pm – 7:00pm — **FORUM RECEPTION** ..... *Seaview Rotunda*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH

8:30am – 1:00pm — **REGISTRATION** ..... *Regency Foyer*

8:30am – 9:15am — **BREAKFAST** ..... *Regency Ballroom*

9:15am – 9:30am — **INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME** ..... *Regency Ballroom*

9:30am – 10:00am — **KEYNOTE:** What's Next ETW: Serving in the Movement for Educational Justice *Regency Ballroom*

10:00am – 10:15am — **BREAK**

10:15am – 11:30am — **LEARNING SESSION A**

Advocacy Matters: How Education Equity Funders Work
in Partnership with Community ..... *Shoreline AB*

Leveraging Play to Promote Equity in Our Schools ..... *Beacon A*

Racial Justice in California Schools: Uplifting the Assets, Needs,
and Identities of English Learner Students ..... *Beacon B*

Improving Equity in California Higher Education through
Ongoing Financial Aid Reform Efforts ..... *Seaview A*

Your Time Has Come! Intentionally Serving African American Scholars ..... *Seaview B*

Equity from the Start: Advocating for California's Youngest Students ..... *Seaview C*

Power and Positioning: Systemic Change Starts With Student Organizing ..... *Harbor*

11:30am – 1:00pm — **LUNCH AND KEYNOTE PLENARY** ..... *Regency Ballroom*

EDUCATION EQUITY FORUM OVERVIEW

1:00pm – 1:15pm **BREAK**

1:15pm – 2:30pm **LEARNING SESSION B**

Pathways To and Through College: Critical Issues & Opportunities for Equity and Justice ..... *Shoreline AB*

Black Minds Matter: Implicit Bias and Microaggressions in Early Childhood Education ..... *Seaview B*

Bringing the California English Learner Roadmap to Life for Teachers ..... *Beacon B*

All In For Financial Aid: Policy That Invests In Equity ..... *Seaview A*

Celebrating and Preserving Diversity: Recommendations on Retaining Teachers of Color in California ..... *Beacon A*

Equity in Practice: Partnering with The Education Trust-West ..... *Seaview C*

We Count Too! A Case Study on LAUSD & Data Disaggregation ..... *Harbor*

2:30pm – 2:45pm **BREAK**

2:45pm – 4:00pm **LEARNING SESSION C**

The Fight for Fiscal Adequacy in California: A Conversation About Next Year's Ballot Initiatives and Beyond ..... *Shoreline AB*

Ensuring Equity in Early Childhood: Focusing on Dual Language Learners ..... *Seaview C*

Supporting Undocumented Students in an Era of Urgency ..... *Seaview B*

Closing the Opportunity Gap: Districts Making Change in California ..... *Seaview A*

Linking Research and Policy to Increase Equity in Computer Science Education ..... *Beacon B*

America Never Was America to Me: A "Real Talk" About Race and Equity In Our Schools ..... *Beacon A*

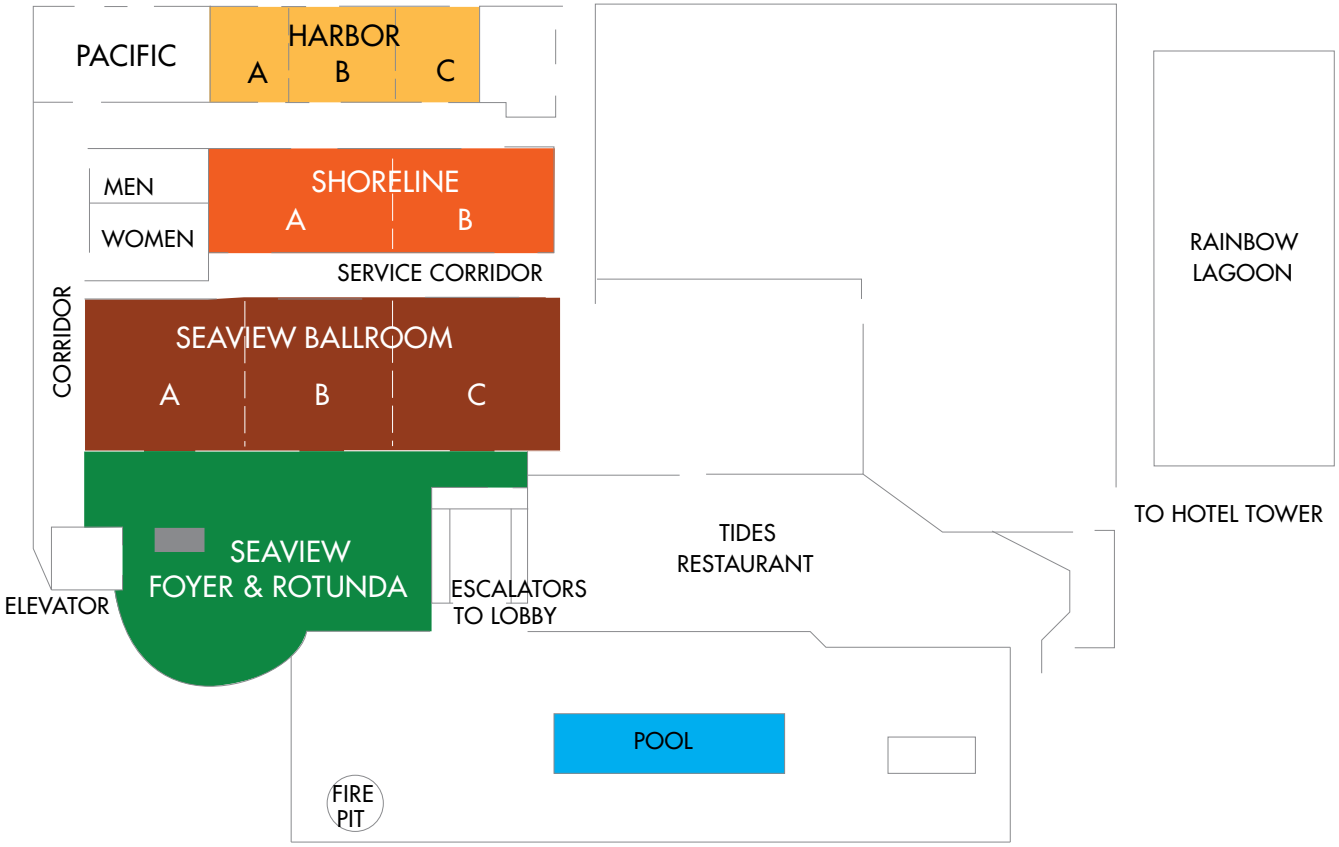
Advancing Racial Equity in California by Re-engaging Adults ..... *Harbor*

4:00pm – 4:15pm **BREAK**

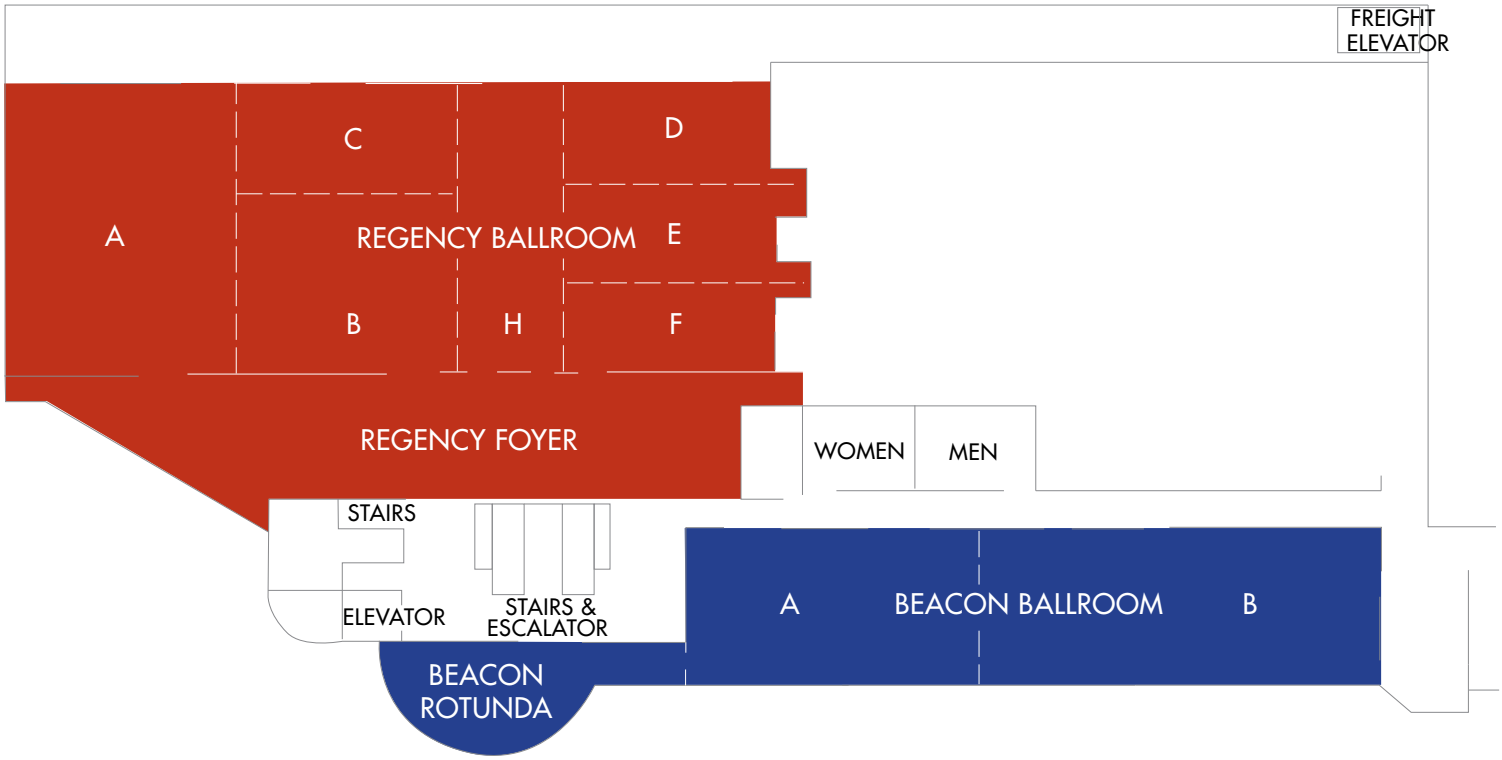
4:15pm – 5:15pm **CLOSING PLENARY** ..... *Regency Ballroom*

EDUCATION EQUITY FORUM MAP

LOWER LEVEL – 1ST FLOOR



UPPER LEVEL – 4TH FLOOR



EDUCATION EQUITY FORUM AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH

12:00pm – 7:00pm **REGISTRATION** ..... *Regency Foyer*

1:00pm – 5:00pm
Beacon A

NATIONAL EQUITY PROJECT PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION

Leading for Equity in Turbulent Times:
Mitigating Bias, Reimagining Structures & Creating Cultures of Belonging

LASHAWN ROUTÉ CHATMON
Executive Director
National Equity Project
@LaShawnRChatmon

HUGH VASQUEZ
Senior Associate
National Equity Project
@HughJVasquez

Our success in creating organizations, schools, and communities in which everyone has access to the opportunities they need depends on our willingness to recognize and confront our complex history of individual and structural oppression; understand how implicit bias operates and affects our decision-making; and take productive action to interrupt inequitable practices in order to create communities where we can each learn, grow, and thrive.

This four-hour experiential learning session will support individuals and teams to:

- Explore what it means to take leadership for equity given your identity and role.
- Create a shared understanding of how implicit bias and structural racialization work together to reproduce inequity.
- Engage in strategies to mitigate implicit bias and reduce racialized outcomes.
- Engage the concept of othering and belonging and share strategies for increasing a sense of belonging in your context.

5:00pm – 7:00pm **FORUM RECEPTION** ..... *Seaview Rotunda*

EDUCATION EQUITY FORUM AGENDA
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH

8:30am – 1:00pm **REGISTRATION** ..... *Regency Foyer*
8:30am – 9:15am **BREAKFAST** ..... *Regency Ballroom*

9:15am – 9:30am
Regency Ballroom

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

DR. JOHN B. KING JR.
President and CEO
The Education Trust
@JohnBKing

The Forum will open with a welcome from Dr. John B. King Jr., President and CEO of The Education Trust and former U.S. Secretary of Education under President Barack Obama.

9:30am – 10:00am
Grand Nave Ballroom

KEYNOTE
What's Next ETW: Serving in the Movement for Educational Justice

DR. ELISHA SMITH ARRILLAGA
Executive Director
The Education Trust–West
@ESArrillaga

Ed Trust—West's new Executive Director, Dr. Elisha Smith Arrillaga, brings an impassioned and intentional perspective to the work of educational justice. Raised with roots in the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. Smith Arrillaga is a former educator, researcher, mother, and mathematician. Hear more from Dr. Smith Arrillaga about the opportunity we all have in this moment to significantly speed up the pace of change on campuses, in schools, and for and with communities in California.

10:00am – 10:15am **BREAK**

LEARNING SESSION A

Advocacy Matters: How Education Equity Funders Work in Partnership with Community

Shoreline AB

Philanthropic organizations that support educational equity work are becoming increasingly intentional about partnering with community to advance policies and practices that can provide access and opportunity for low-income students, students of color, and English learners. In this session, participants will hear from funders about how they work to authentically engage communities in the grantmaking process, and how this work influences their funding philosophy and approach. Former U.S. Secretary of Education and current Education Trust President and CEO Dr. John B. King Jr. and The Education Trust—West's Executive Director Dr. Elisha Smith Arrillaga will lead this interactive panel discussion where attendees will hear directly from funders about how they see momentum building for community-informed funding decisions and what advocates should keep in mind as they seek funding.

DR. JOHN B. KING JR.
President and CEO
The Education Trust
@JohnBKing

DR. ELISHA SMITH ARRILLAGA
Executive Director
The Education Trust–West
@ESArrillaga

PAOLA SANTANA
Strategy Officer for State Policy
Lumina Foundation
@PASantana12

DR. MELINA UNCAPHER
Director of EF+Math Program
NewSchools Venture Fund
Assistant Professor and Director of Education
UC San Francisco's Neuroscape Center

ROMY DRUCKER
Deputy Director, K-12 Education
Walton Family Foundation
@romydrucker

VALERIE THRELFALL
Principal
Ekouté
@valthrelfall

Leveraging Play to Promote Equity in Our Schools

Beacon A

Playworks believes in the power of play to bring out the best in every child and works primarily with schools with large populations of English language learners, students from low-income families, and/or students of color. In this session, Playworks will share strategies that can be used on the playground to promote equity in our schools, both for youth and adults. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in play themselves while leaving with an appreciation for how play can be leveraged for equity as they return to their schools and communities.

ROBERT SINDELAR
California Regional Executive Director
Playworks
@robert_sindelar

DILLON MOSIER
Program Manager
Playworks
@MosierDillon

JANELLE MATTHEWS
Program Manager
Playworks
@Playworks

PURPLE LIERA
Program Manager
Playworks
@Playworks

Racial Justice in California Schools: Uplifting the Assets, Needs, and Identities of English Learner Students

Beacon B

English Learner (EL) students are the fastest growing group of students in the nation, comprise over 20% of California's K-12 student population, and are a substantial share of Latinx students and Asian and Pacific Islander students in the state. With sizable opportunity gaps between ELs and non-ELs, the state of EL education is in a crisis, further exacerbating racial opportunity gaps. After two-decades of anti-immigrant policies in California, addressing EL education through an intersectional and asset-based lens will accelerate the movement towards educational and racial justice. This session will share the asset-focused 2020 Policy and Legislative Agenda developed by the Consortium for English Learner Success and discuss its approach to accelerating educational and racial equity in California schools. Participants will reflect on the impact that is possible through collaboration and advancing racial equity in education specifically for EL students.

ALLYSON OSORIO
External Relations Manager
The Education Trust–West
@allysonosorio_

VIVIANN ANGUIANO
Associate Director, Policy & Legislative Advocacy
Alliance for A Better Community
@ViviannAnguiano

CAROLYNE CROLOTTE
Senior Policy Analyst
Early Edge California
@CCrolotte
@EarlyEdgeCA

Improving Equity in California Higher Education through Ongoing Financial Aid Reform Efforts

Seaview A

There is a strong consensus that college is unaffordable and substantial investments are needed in state financial aid to cover students' total college costs and basic needs, and California's lowest income students and students of color are bearing the greatest financial burdens. This session will review the findings from recent research, including the troubling trend that students of color and lower income students are more likely to borrow to cover college costs than their white and better-resourced peers. This discussion will also cover ongoing efforts by policymakers and advocates to reform California's need-based financial aid system and identify ways that participants can get involved in the budgetary and legislative processes to help move meaningful and equitable reforms forward.

LAURA SZABO-KUBITZ
Associate California Program Director
The Institute for College Access & Success
@TICAS_org

MICHAEL WIAFE
President
Cal State Student Association
@Wiafe2Wiafe

CAROLINE SIEGEL-SINGH
Former President (2018-2019)
University of California Student Association
@carolinessingh

Your Time Has Come! Intentionally Serving African American Scholars

Seaview B

There is a strangely persistent problem in the educational opportunities and outcomes for African American students in our nation's education system—a problem that can result in education gatekeepers holding low expectations for these students. In this session, participants will learn about Fresno Unified School District's African American Academic Acceleration Initiative (4AI), which seeks to confront, dismantle, and transform the way the district intentionally serves African American learners while building the systemic capacity required of those entrusted to accelerate their overall academic achievement. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of how to utilize data-informed academic programming to identify opportunities for academic supports for educators and administrators that support and accelerate academic achievement for African American students.

WENDY McCULLEY
Executive Director
Fresno Unified School District
@wendy_mcculley

DR. TAMEKA McGLAWN
Chief of Strategy, Learning and Collective Impact
Leading for Equity Collective Network

Equity from the Start: Advocating for California's Youngest Students

Seaview C

Recent research looks at equity in California's enrollment of Black and Latinx 3- and 4-year-olds in state-funded preschool programs and how California's state-funded preschool programs compare to other states. This session will include a discussion about current policies and practices in California aimed at reducing equity gaps for children of color, dual language learners, and low-income children, and best practices for how California can give these children a strong start in school. Participants will also gain an understanding of ways they can utilize tools and advocacy guides to work for increasing access and investments in early childhood learning locally.

CARRIE GILLISPIE
Senior Analyst, P-12 Resource Equity
The Education Trust
@CarrieECE

KIM PATTILLO BROWNSON
Vice President, Policy and Strategy
First 5 LA
@First5LA

HANA MA
Senior Policy Analyst
The Education Trust–West
@HanaMaHere

Power and Positioning: Systemic Change Starts With Student Organizing *Harbor*

It has often been said if you do not have a seat at the table, then you're on the menu. Students for Education Reform's (SFER) local youth organizers refuse to accept the status quo and are demanding systemic change in California K-12 schools. Young people are the key stakeholders in our schools systems, but do not have an authentic voice or power in the decisions that impact their communities. In this session, participants will have the opportunity to listen and engage with a panel of organizers advocating for college access in Los Angeles Unified School District and dismantling the school to prison pipeline in West Contra Costa Unified School District. This session will discuss how to position student organizers as leaders in education and explore what it takes to build power for change.

DESIREE MARTINEZ
Associate Director of Organizing
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Students for Education Reform (SFER)
@desicm09

RAQUEL ANTOLIN
Associate Organizing Director
Northern California
Students for Education Reform (SFER)
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STEPHANIE LUNA
Student Lead Organizer
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ALAN ANTONIO
Student Organizer
Santa Monica College
Students for Education Reform (SFER)
@AlanAntonio789

11:30am – 1:00pm LUNCH AND KEYNOTE PLENARY *Regency Ballroom*

DR. BETTINA LOVE
Author
We Want To Do More Than Survive
Associate Professor of
Educational Theory & Practice
University of Georgia
@BLoveSoulPower

This year's lunch keynote will feature Dr. Bettina Love, author of the recent *We Want To Do More Than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching and the Pursuit of Educational Freedom* and Associate Professor of Educational Theory & Practice at the University of Georgia. Dr. Love's research includes a focus on how teachers and schools working with parents and communities can build communal, civically engaged schools rooted in intersectional social justice for the goal of equitable classrooms. Dr. Love's work pushes educators and those who care about students of color to stop accepting the status quo and to rethink how education systems are designed.

1:00pm – 1:15pm BREAK

Pathways To and Through College: Critical Issues and Opportunities for Equity and Justice

Shoreline AB

Education systems in California are fraught with inequities that make pathways to college unclear and challenging, especially for students from communities of color and living in poverty. This panel takes a close look at ways to improve access to college preparatory coursework, community college equity planning, and the experiences of boys and young men of color with an eye on increasing postsecondary access and attainment in California. Panelists will share real-world lessons, along with insights about what reforms and structural changes need to occur at the district and statewide levels to improve pathways to and through college.

DR. ADRIAN HUERTA
Assistant Professor of Education
Pullias Center for Higher Education, USC
@AdrianHuertaPhD

DR. ERIC R. FELIX
Policy Fellow
Center for Urban Education, USC
Assistant Professor of Community College Leadership
San Diego State University
@EriqFelix

DR. FELIZA I. ORTIZ-LICON
Senior Director of Education Leadership Development
UnidosUS
@WeAreUnidosUS

DR. CHRISTOPHER NELLUM
Senior Director of Higher Education Research & Policy
The Education Trust–West
@chrisnellum

Black Minds Matter: Implicit Bias and Microaggressions in Early Childhood Education

Seaview B

This session will discuss the role of implicit bias in fostering microaggression for Black boys in early childhood education. The conversation will be framed around the D-Three Effect, highlighting how Black boys are treated with distrust, disdain, and disregard in early learning. The presenter will make connections between these themes and the overexposure of Black boys to exclusionary discipline and over-placement in special education. Recommendations for educators and school leaders will be extended.

DR. J. LUKE WOOD
Distinguished Professor of Education and Associate Vice President of Faculty Diversity and Inclusion
San Diego State University
@DrLukeWood

Bringing the California English Learner Roadmap to Life for Teachers

Beacon B

While education policies have the intention of impacting practice, too often the language of policy doesn't speak in the language of teaching and learning, leaving teachers to ask: What does this have to do with me? What does this mean for my classroom and my students? Californians Together's recently released California English Learner Roadmap Teacher Toolkit aims to give teachers tools to assess current practices and plan for classroom implementation. The "road trip" towards enacting the policy entails selecting a focus, determining priorities, and then designing a path of improvement. The English Learner Roadmap Teachers Toolkit is intended to support that process. Participants will receive an overview of the components of the toolkit as well as suggestions for how to use it.

MARTHA HERNÁNDEZ
Director of Policy and Initiatives
Californians Together
@CalTog

All In For Financial Aid: Policy That Invests In Equity

Seaview A

California educates approximately one in ten K-12 students in the nation and has more students graduating from high school than any other state, and yet thousands of eligible students miss out on the financial aid they are entitled to receive. Come to this presentation to learn more about a statewide solution to close racial equity gaps in education and how districts can make college more affordable for California's low-income students and students of color.

MATTHEW ELDER
Assistant Principal
Orange Vista High School
@MrElderOVHS

DINA WALKER
President and CEO
BLU Educational Foundation
@dinaLwalker

TYLER WU
Higher Education Policy Analyst
The Education Trust–West
@ItsTylerWu

Celebrating and Preserving Diversity: Recommendations on Retaining Teachers of Color in California

Beacon A

This session will be led by two current Teacher Leaders: Daniel Helena and Charles Snow. They will use this time to present on the unique research they conducted spring 2018-fall 2018 and the recommendations stemming from their work and published in the policy brief *Celebrating and Preserving Diversity: Recommendations on Retaining Teachers of Color in California* (May 2019). Additionally, they will be able to comment on ongoing efforts to work alongside LAUSD in creating implicit bias training for administrators and staff. This session will also provide time for participants to select strategies to implement at local school sites and plan for implementation.

DANIEL HELENA
6th Grade Common Core English Teacher
Alliance Kory Hunter Middle School
@TeachPlusCA

CHARLES SNOW
Resource Teacher
Da Vinci Schools
@TeachPlusCA

Equity in Practice: Partnering with The Education Trust–West

Seaview C

Local education agencies have a critical role in actualizing educational equity. The Education Trust–West (ETW) offers a range of supports for County Offices of Education, school districts, schools, and other education groups advancing racial equity goals. ETW has partnered with more than a dozen school districts across the state to support their transformation to more effectively and equitably serve students so they graduate from high school college- and career-ready. ETW works with districts to analyze data, surface root causes to inequities, and implement research-based practices for creating meaningful access to college and career readiness coursework and supports. Join us in this session to engage in conversation about our work, our learnings, and ways you can partner with us to address issues of equity in your districts and schools.

MAYRA A. LARA, Ed.D.
Senior Practice Associate
The Education Trust–West
@LaraMayralara1

RACHEL RUFFALO
Senior Practice Associate
The Education Trust–West
@RachelRuffalo

We Count Too! A Case Study on LAUSD & Data Disaggregation *Harbor*

Racial inequities are hidden by aggregated data—the call for disaggregated data by the AANHPI AMEMSA community is rooted in the belief that every child deserves to be counted, seen, and recognized. This session will share learnings from the partnership campaign between LAUSD leadership and community organizations that led to the unanimous approval of the "Everyone Counts: Increasing Equity for All of Our AANHPI AMEMSA Students and Employees" resolution on May 28, 2019. What did we win? What will we continue to fight for?

VICTORIA "NIKKI" DOMINGUEZ
Education Equity Director
Asians Americans Advancing Justice - LA
@VictoriaNikkiD1

ANDREW MURPHY
Former Policy Deputy
Office of Board President
Los Angeles Unified School District

2:30pm – 2:45 pm BREAK

LEARNING SESSION C

The Fight for Fiscal Adequacy in California: A Conversation About Next Year's Ballot Initiatives And Beyond *Shoreline AB*

Funding adequacy and equity issues remain top of mind for advocates and communities across the state. There is a lively discussion happening about ballot initiatives to increase both K-12 and higher education funding. Ensuring more funding for education in California is critical for advancing equity, but there are also complex implications of the ballot initiatives, along with intersections between K-12 and higher ed efforts that need to be considered. This session aims to explore those implications and help advocates prepare for the ballot fights ahead and beyond.

DARCIE HARVEY
Consultant
California Community College Chancellor's Office & College Futures Foundation
@harvey_darcie

XILONIN CRUZ-GONZALEZ
Board President
Azusa Unified School District
@xilonin

TARYN ISHIDA
Executive Director
Californians for Justice
@TarynIshida

ALBERTO RETANA
President and CEO
Community Coalition
@aretana

Ensuring Equity in Early Childhood: Focusing on Dual Language Learners *Seaview C*

California is home to the nation's largest population of children learning English in addition to their home language—dual language learners (DLL) and English learners (EL). Given that DLL children make up 60% of children birth to age 5 in California and that early childhood (ECE) is a critical time for language development, it is imperative that DLL children are central to discussions of equity within educational initiatives. This session will review key DLL research and policy as well as examples of how leaders are: integrating ECE in bilingual education initiatives; working to ensure DLLs are central to how ECE quality is defined and supported; and prioritizing communities of color in their efforts. This interactive session will engage participants to inform emerging ideas for advancing DLL-specific policy and practice that can be leveraged as California leadership works to strengthen and expand the state's ECE system.

CAROLYNE CROLOTTE
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Early Edge California
@CCrolotte
@EarlyEdgeCA

VICKIE RAMOS HARRIS
Associate Director of Education Policy
Advancement Project
@AP_California

DR. MARLENE ZEPEDA
Professor Emerita
Cal State LA
@selene99Gilda

JUNHEE DOH
Policy and Research Analyst
Advancement Project
@junheedoh

Supporting Undocumented Students in an Era of Urgency

Seaview B

Fear and political uncertainty currently fill the daily lives of undocumented students around the nation. Educators, therefore, must become equipped to facilitate healing and empower these students. This workshop will provide educators with the tools to understand the environmental factors affecting undocumented students. Through group activity and discussion, this session will provide learnings and resources on providing social and emotional support. Participants will walk away from this training with knowledge and resources on curriculum, college access and success, career readiness, and best practices while serving undocumented students.

IELAF ALTOMA
Career Coach
CSU Dominguez Hills

Closing the Opportunity Gap: Districts Making Change in California

Seaview A

Providing access to critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and communication competencies—often referred to as "deeper learning" skills—while addressing longstanding opportunity gaps for students of color represents a key challenge for education in California. This session shares findings from an analysis of seven districts that have excelled at supporting the learning of students of color. Participants will hear from both researchers and representatives from two of these districts—Long Beach USD and San Diego USD—and learn the key elements of these district's strategies to support racial equity, including: a district vision that centers equity as an imperative, identifying key equity levers, improving access to coursework and instruction leading to college and career opportunities, strengthening school climate, and building educator professional capacity.

DION BURNS
Senior Researcher
Learning Policy Institute
@LPI_Learning

DESIREE CARVER-THOMAS
Researcher and Policy Analyst
Learning Policy Institute
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LAURA HERNANDEZ
Senior Researcher
Learning Policy Institute
@lehernandez02

Linking Research and Policy to Increase Equity in Computer Science Education

Beacon B

California's tech sector leads the nation —but if the state is to maintain its economic competitiveness, especially as we move toward a technology-driven society, systemic changes are required in K-12 education to ensure all students in California have access to the education and are prepared for the workforce of the future. This session will summarize the current landscape of access, enrollment, and equity in K-12 CS education across the state of California, and give participants the opportunity to navigate the new dashboard that has been developed to improve data access for educators, policymakers, and parents and increase transparency in California's schools, districts, and counties about CS access and participation across race/ethnicity, gender, and geography. The panel will discuss strategic recommendations for policymakers, educators, tech industry leaders, and the philanthropic community to implement in order to improve access and equity in computer science education for all students in California.

SONIA KOSH
Director of Measurement, Evaluation, and Learning
Kapor Center
@kaporcenter

ALLISON SCOTT
Chief Research Officer
Kapor Center
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JULIE FLAPAN
Executive Director
Alliance for California Computing Education for Students and Schools
Director of the Computer Science Project
UCLA's Center X
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LAURA HINTON
Insights and Operations Analyst
Kapor Center
@kaporcenter

America Never Was America to Me: A "Real Talk" About Race and Equity In Our Schools

Beacon A

Do you have a strategic vision for equity in your school? Have you heard of and/or watched the docuseries *America to Me*? Do you feel comfortable talking about race? In this session, LaShawn Chatmon and Hugh Vasquez, from the National Equity Project will host a "Real Talk" about racial equity in K-12 schools. The groundbreaking series, *America to Me* from Oscar®-nominee Steve James ("Hoop Dreams") deals with issues of race, equity, culture and privilege within a well-resourced, racially integrated public high school, seen through the eyes of students, teachers, administrators, and families. Participants will engage in discussion around clips from *America to Me* to ignite conversations that identify structural inequities in the docuseries, and in your school! This is a not-to-be missed opportunity to discuss these complex and crucial issues with your peers. Participant Media's *America to Me* team will also be present to discuss the "Real Talk" impact campaign and to help ideate on ways you can bring the series and educator tools to your school and community.

LASHAWN ROUTÉ CHATMON
Executive Director
National Equity Project
@LaShawnRChatmon

HUGH VASQUEZ
Senior Associate
National Equity Project
@HughJVasquez

Advancing Racial Equity in California by Re-engaging Adults *Harbor*

California's economy has rapidly grown, yet millions—particularly those from communities of color—fail to experience prosperity because they lack the needed credential or degree. Eliminating these gaps requires explicit attention to race/ethnicity despite open access to community colleges. In this session, participants will learn about research on California adults educational attainment by race/ethnicity, and how it affects educational equity and economic mobility. They will then learn about two policy issues that could increase adult educational attainment: Ability to Benefit (ATB) and Senate Bill 554 (Roth). Attendees will learn about how ATB can help adults without a high school diploma qualify for Pell grants and ease college affordability. They will also learn about SB 554, which would allow adults in high school diploma or equivalency programs to attend community college with special admission enrollment status, similar to AB 288 (CCAP) and AB30.

ILAF ESUF
Program Associate
California Competes: Higher Education for a Strong Economy
@IlafEsuf

DR. VALERIE LUNDY-WAGNER
Senior Research Analyst
California Competes: Higher Education for a Strong Economy
@VLW_CACompetes

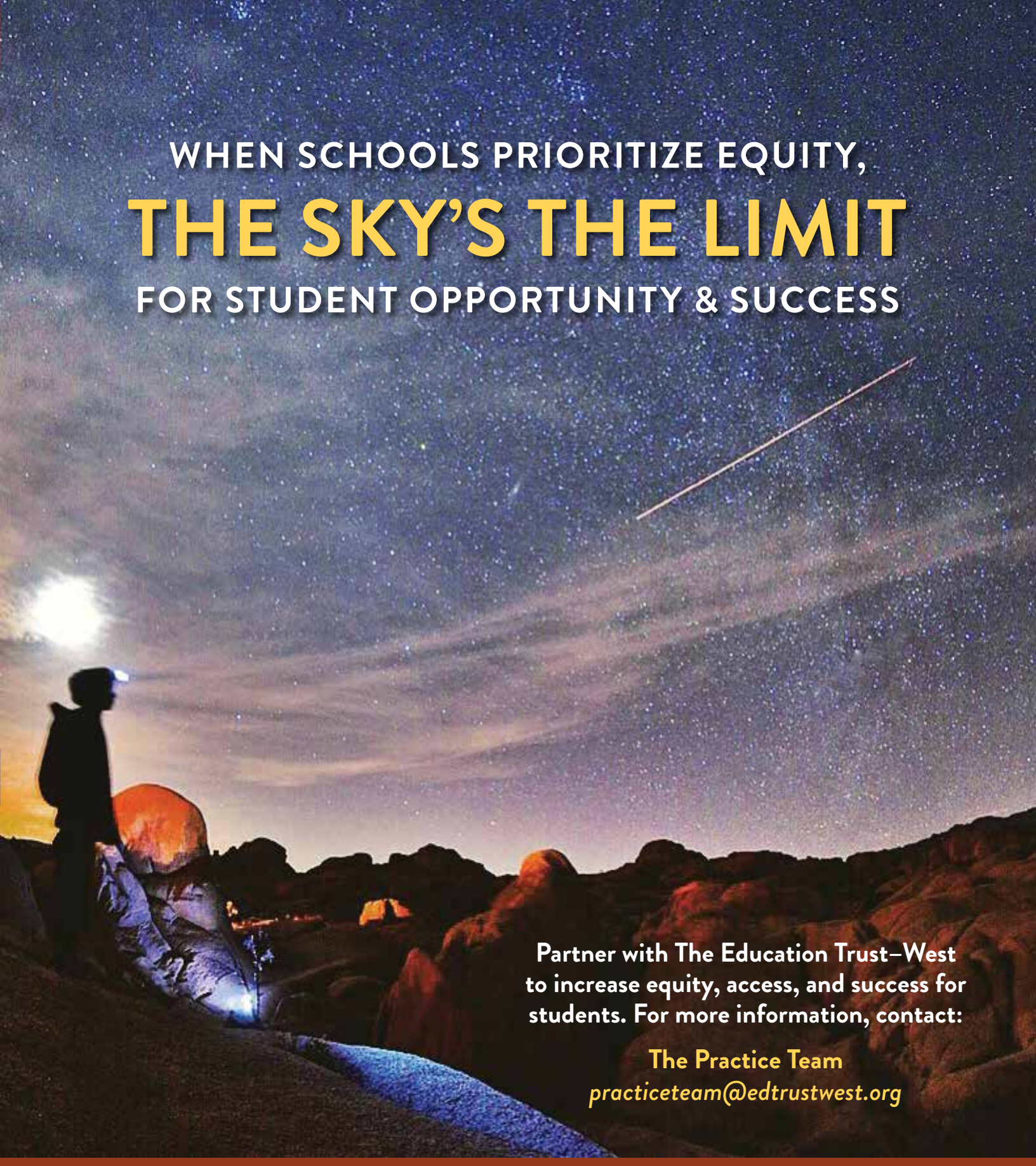
NAOMI CASTRO
Director
Career Ladders Project
@NaomiCastroProf

4:00pm- 4:15pm **BREAK**

4:15pm – 5:15pm **CLOSING PLENARY** ***Regency Ballroom***

RUBEN ELIAS CANEDO SANCHEZ
Director, Strategic Equity Initiatives
UC Berkeley
@rubenecanedo

Born and raised in the border valleys of southern California, Ruben Elias Canedo Sanchez is a first-generation college alumnus of UC Berkeley where he serves as Director of Strategic Equity Initiatives within the Division of Equity & Inclusion. Ruben's academic coursework and publications focus on public higher education, equity, intersectionality, and systems change. Ruben leads trainings on a range of topics concerning intersectional justice and healing, and facilitates conversations around the state on housing insecurity, food insecurity, and other equity issues that higher education systems, campuses, and communities are grappling with.



STAY CONNECTED!

Join our email list: www.edtrustwest.org/join

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We appreciate the many educators, faculty members, administrators, campus leaders, students, and advocates that took the time to gather for this year's Forum. We also thank the many sponsors and funders who made this year's conference possible, including:

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