



THE CALIFORNIA COLLEGE
**AFFORDABILITY
SUMMIT**
A K-12 PATHWAY TO FINANCIAL AID

November 13-15, 2019





SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

November 13, 2019 – November 15, 2019

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2019

- 11 :00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.** Summit Early-Bird Check-In (Crystal Foyer)
- 1 :00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.** Pre-Summit Session: CSAC Statewide Financial Aid Educator Workshop Audience: High School Administrators, School Counselors, Teachers, and Community Members
Presenters: California Student Aid Commission
- 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.** Pre-Summit Town Hall and Panel: The National and California Vision for College Affordability
Audience: District Superintendents, Community and Legislative Stakeholders, District/Site Administrators, and School Board Members
Speaker: Lande Ajose, Senior Policy Advisor for Higher Education
Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2019

- 6:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.** Check-In & Continental Breakfast
- 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** Welcome From Riverside County Office of Education, California Student Aid Commission, California Department of Education, and Education Trust West
- 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.** Moderated Student Voice Panel-Understanding and Supporting Today's Student Experience Through the Financial Aid Process
- 10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.** Transition
- 10:15 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.** Breakout Session I
- 11:10 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.** Transition
- 11:25 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.** Breakout Session II
- 12:20 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.** Race to Submit State Awards Ceremony
- 1:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.** Transition
- 2:00 p.m. – 2:55 p.m.** Breakout Session III
- 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.** College Affordability Resource Fair
- 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.** Cash For College Experience: Participants will have an opportunity to attend an off-site Cash For College Workshop to observe an event in action, have an opportunity to ask questions, and start planning their own event at their school site. Transportation will be provided to this location.
Site Location:
Desert Sands Unified School District
La Quinta High School
79255 Blackhawk Way, La Quinta, CA 92253-4150



SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

November 13, 2019 – November 15, 2019

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2019

- 6:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Check-In & Continental Breakfast
- 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Opening Remarks
- 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Moderated National and State Panel:
The Future of College Affordability and Financial Aid
- 10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Transition
- 10:15 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. Breakout Session IV
- 11:10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. Keynote Speaker: John Quinones, Journalist and TV Host
- 12:45 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Closing and Next Steps



FOR MORE INFORMATION,
DOWNLOAD THE SCHED
APPLICATION.

Keynotes, Student Speakers and Panelists



Dr. Lande Ajose
Senior Policy Advisor for Higher Education
Office of the California Governor
Gavin Newsom



Lupita Cortez Alcalá
Chief Deputy Superintendent
California Department of Education



Marlene Garcia
Executive Director
California Student Aid Commission
(CSAC)



Dr. Judy D. White
Riverside County Superintendent
of Schools
Riverside County Office of Education



Dr. Christopher Nellum
Senior Director of Higher Education
Research and Policy
The Education Trust - West



Ms. Barrye Bailey
Education Technology Consultant
Office of Student Opportunities
Louisiana Department of Education



Dr. Tireka Cobb
Field Outreach Services Director
Louisiana Office of Student
Financial Assistance



Graham Thomas
Deputy Director of Outreach
tnAchieves



John Quiñones
ABC News Veteran
Creator & Host, What Would You Do?



Michael R. McCormick
Superintendent
Val Verde Unified School District



Dr. Charles Newman
Assistant Superintendent of Ed. Services
Perris Unified High School District



Julio Gonzalez
Director
College High School Program

STUDENT SPEAKERS



Dustin Adkins
San Diego State University



Christina Aguirre
College of the Desert



Humberto Jaramillo
High School Senior



Maria Manjarrez
University of Southern California



Kayla Vue
UC Riverside

Jordan Rice
College of the Desert



2019 WINNERS

Alliance Morgan McKinzie High School, Los Angeles Unified

Calexico High School, Calexico Unified

Citrus Hill High School, Val Verde Unified

Downtown Magnets High School, Los Angeles Unified

East Village Middle College High School, San Diego Unified

Ednovate - USC Hybrid High School, Los Angeles Unified

Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez High School, Los Angeles Unified

Fresno High School, Fresno Unified

Granada Hills Charter High School, Los Angeles Unified

Great Oak High School, Temecula Valley Unified

Hector Godinez Fundamental High School, Santa Ana Unified

Middle College High School, San Bernardino City Unified

Minarets High School, Chawanakee Unified

Orange Vista High School, Val Verde Unified

**Orthopaedic Hospital Medical Magnet High School,
Los Angeles Unified**

Rancho Verde High School, Val Verde Unified

San Marcos High School, San Marcos Unified

Santiago High School, Corona-Norco Unified

Social Justice Humanitas Academy, Los Angeles Unified

Sunnyside High School, Fresno Unified

Vista Norte Public Charter, Helendale Elementary District

Warren High School, Downey Unified

**Wonderful College Prep Academy,
Kern County Office of Education**

Breakout Session I (10:15 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.)

Gaining Momentum: Why Culture Building Drives financial Aid Completion | Crystal A

Session Description: By engaging administrators, teachers, parents, and students, participants will learn how to increase overall FAFSA/CADA completion by building a culture around the process itself. One example highlighted in this session will be the implementation of a “Financial Aid Week” for an entire high school senior class. While the focus of this session is providing additional support for targeted students, attendees will also learn how comprehensive financial aid completion efforts enhance the college-going culture for all students.

Attendees will also discuss efforts already underway in their schools and will learn how to use the four-step continuous improvement model known as the PDSA cycle (plan-do-study-act) to better engage more of their school communities in financial aid completion.

Participants will be encouraged and supported to begin developing their own school-specific plans to increase financial aid completion rates using the strategies shared in the workshop.

Understanding GPA Uploads and the WebGrants System: Reports and Tools to Ensure Success | Crystal B

Session Description: This session provides an overview of the WebGrants System, available reports to track FAFSA/CADAA completion efforts, and the process of GPA uploads for high school counselors, administrators and school district staff.

Cal-SOAP: Leading the Charge to Create a College-Going Culture in Schools | Crystal H

Session Description: The California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) was established by the state legislature in 1978. Today, Cal-SOAP is instrumental in improving the flow of information about postsecondary education and financial aid while raising the achievement levels of low-income, elementary and secondary school students or geographic regions with documented low-eligibility or college participation rates, and who are first in their families to attend college.

Session participants will learn how Cal-SOAP creates college-going cultures in school sites, how k-12 districts can apply for a Cal-SOAP grant. Three Cal-SOAP Project Directors will discuss best practices on how they help to implement a college-going culture within their partner school districts, with a focus on financial aid literacy and outreach activities.

College Affordability: More Than Just The FAFSA/Dream ACT | Crystal I

Session Description: This session will focus on critical financial aid steps beyond just FAFSA/Dream Act completion. The session will guide you through the senior year financial aid timeline, pausing at important milestones such as Student Aid Report review, Verification and Financial Aid Offer review and comparison, to share tips and best practices. Attendees will leave with a solid base of college affordability knowledge and will be better prepared to move deeper into the financial aid process with their students and families.

United Negro College Fund: Using Student Voice to Inform College Affordability and Readiness | Crystal I

Session Description: Opportunity and achievement gaps between students of color and white students have persisted for decades, yet far too often student voices, and particularly minority student voices, aren't included in education discussions in a meaningful way. Learn about a K-12 youth's perspectives on education and one important finding revealed the No. 1 barrier to college attendance and completion for African- American students was the high cost of college, and many indicated they lacked information on how to pay for post-secondary education. Walk away with information about UNCF scholarship applications for all students, including HBCU scholarship opportunities.

Breakout Session I (10:15 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.)

Advancing College/Career Readiness Access, Equity, and Success | Valencia II

Session Description: Less than half of California twelfth grade students and only 39 percent of low-income students' graduate having completed the courses required for admission to a UC or CSU. Similarly, fewer than 4 out of 10 Latinx, Black, and Pacific Islander students, fewer than 3 out of 10 Native students, and only 1 in 10 emerging bilingual (English learner) students' graduate having successfully completed the a-g course sequence, meaning that the vast majority of students from underrepresented groups lack access to California's four-year public university systems directly after high school.

In fact, schools that serve low-income students, emerging bilingual students, and underrepresented students of color have, on average, more than 10 percent fewer a-g approved English courses than affluent high schools. The results are detrimental and the message is clear: students can graduate high school, but won't be eligible for California's four-year public universities.

Education leaders must work intentionally and explicitly to ensure the development of college and career learning opportunities for our most marginalized students that dramatically improve academic outcomes. This work is possible. A number of California districts are leading the way in changing policies and practices to ensure that students graduate college and career ready.

Join us to learn about our research on promising practices for advancing college/career readiness access and success for students of color, low-income students, and for emerging bilingual students. We will share examples from California where education leaders are creating the conditions necessary for students to graduate college and career ready.

Initial Insights From The 2018-2019 Student Expenses and Resources Survey (SEARS) | Valencia V

Session Description: CSAC will present an overview of the 2018-19 SEARS project, a groundbreaking survey of over 15,000 California college students attending all segments of higher education throughout the state. This survey collected data about students' out-of-pocket costs for college expenses such as textbooks, housing, food, and transportation; their experience working (or looking for work) to help offset the cost of college; and their perceptions of college affordability. Using this data, the Commission is uniquely positioned to provide insights into the college experience broken down by factors such as race/ethnicity, age, and region of California.

The Tennessee Promise Building College Access and Affordability in Tennessee Communities | Valencia VI

Session Description: Tennessee has embraced a critical new mission: the Drive to 55 – the Drive to get 55 percent of Tennesseans equipped with a college degree or certificate by the year 2025. It's not just a mission for higher education, but a mission for Tennessee's future workforce and economic development.

Tennessee Promise is a scholarship program to help more Tennessee high school graduates attend college. With it, Tennessee became the first state in the nation to offer high school graduates two years of community or technical college tuition-free, and they have seen record application numbers and higher enrollment and retention rates since the program launched in 2015. Participants of this session will learn about the state, city, district, and school site efforts that has placed Tennessee as a leader in the nation for systemic FAFSA application completion efforts and post-secondary enrollment increases.

Breakout Session II (11:25 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.)

National Student Clearinghouse: Advancing Student Success Through Post-Secondary Data partnership | Crystal A

Session Description: The National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) helps education go further with innovative solutions that meet reporting, research, verification, transcript, and data exchange demands across the K-20 to workforce continuum.

Thousands of high schools rely on the Clearinghouse for continuing collegiate enrollment and degree information on their alumni. The Clearinghouse services help institutions meet their growing compliance, administrative, student access, accountability, and analytical needs. Most U.S. postsecondary institutions rely on the Clearinghouse's verification and reporting services as well as our one-of-a-kind StudentTracker research service. The Clearinghouse is also the nation's largest provider of electronic student record exchanges and postsecondary transcript ordering services. Participants of this session will learn the power of NSC data and the impact it can have on their college and career programs and college persistency rates.

The Evolving California Financial Aid Landscape | Crystal B

Session Description: There is a broad consensus that college is unaffordable and substantial investments are needed in state financial aid to cover students' total college costs and basic needs. This session will examine ongoing efforts by policymakers and advocates to ensure needy students have the resources they need to successfully earn a higher education credential.

College Promise: A Bridge to College Access | Crystal H

Session Description: The Promise Scholars Program provides incoming full-time students financial and academic support for two years. The program includes text book assistance, food or transportation vouchers, dedicated counseling and career support. The program is open to first-time college students who can commit to attending Cañada College full-time.

The Program is more than a scholarship. All Promise Scholars are welcomed into a supportive, engaged, and inclusive community – a home on campus. Students regularly participate in counseling, career development, and utilize the program's academic resources. Participants of this session will learn how Cañada College is addressing college affordability and improving completion efforts through their Promise program.

Improving Financial Aid Completion: 5 Components of Success | Crystal I

Session Description: Schools and districts across the state are engaged in a variety of practices to help improve financial aid awareness and completion. Education Trust-West (ETW) researched the practices that help close equity gaps in FAFSA and CADAA completion rates. This session will present ETW's Financial Aid Awareness Toolkit, and demonstrate how the tools available on CaliforniaColleges.edu support school districts in implementing the five best practices that ETW identified.

College: Making It Happen For Middle Schools | Valencia I

Session Description: Walk through what the 1-day CMIH event is all about, how to partner with different organizations to execute the event, what responsibilities are as a part of the planning committee, how to pay for the event, descriptions about the workshops that are presented with a focus on workshops centered around financial aid, what the result/impact is, and end with some takeaways about how other school districts can get involved with or start their own CMIH activities.

Breakout Session II (11:25 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.)

Supporting Undocumented Students – Immigrants Rising Partnerships with CA High Schools | Valencia II

Session Description: Founded in 2006, Immigrants Rising transforms individuals and fuels broader changes. With resources and support, undocumented young people are able to get an education, pursue careers, and build a brighter future for themselves and their community.

This session will provide an overview of the Dream Act application, requirements to meet AB 540 eligibility, and best practices to engage and support students and their families.

Effective Family Engagement Practices for Diverse Communities | Valencia V

Session Description: Panelists whose mission includes educational equity and access will share program information that has proven successful in fostering family engagement in education. Presenters will describe practices that are both authentic and also culturally and linguistically appropriate.

The National Guard: Guide To Paying for Your College Education | Valencia VI

Session Description: The National Guard offers many programs for every type of student, whether they are still in high school, attending college or working toward a vocational certification. They also offer many assistance programs to help pay tuition costs and other educational expenses. Counseling programs for Guard members are available in every state to help soldiers prepare for College-Level Examinations, Standardized Tests, and other career-based testing programs. This session will provide information on the various programs provided by the National Guard to help support students reach their post-secondary goals.

Breakout Session III (2:00 p.m. – 2:55 p.m.)

All In For Financial Aid: Policy That Invests In Equity | Crystal A

Session Description: California educates approximately 1 out of every 10 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. The lack of a statewide policy that ensures students complete a financial aid application before graduating also contributes to racial and economic equity gaps in financial aid access throughout California. While some schools and districts have high FAFSA/Dream Act application completion rates, there are far too many schools with predominantly low-income students and students of color where application completion rates are abysmally low. Come to this presentation to learn more about a statewide solution to close racial equity gaps in education and how we can better serve California's students.

Decoding The Cost Of College: Understanding Award Letters and Benefits Packages | Crystal B

Session Description: The financial aid offer is a crucial piece of communication for students and their families to determine whether a college will be an affordable option. This session will explore how different financial aid offer formats, term and other factors help or hinder student understanding and decision-making. uAspire and New America conducted a quantitative and qualitative review of aid offers from over 500 colleges and universities to identify best practices and alarming trends for financial aid communication. Come review these findings and join in the discussion of how to set up students and families to successfully understand their college costs. This session will also feature a panel of higher education representatives who will join in the conversation.

Breakout Session III (2:00 p.m. – 2:55 p.m.)

Student Loan Awareness and Outreach | Crystal H

Session Description: NextGen and Young Invincibles will be discussing essential tips and best practices when it comes to student loan awareness and program outreach that their organizations handle.

Integrating CaliforniaColleges.edu into the Financial Aid Process | Crystal I

Session Description: The California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI) manages CaliforniaColleges.edu, the state of California's official college and career planning platform for middle and high school students. Come learn how you can use the free tools available on CaliforniaColleges.edu to support the financial aid planning and application process. This will be a "hands on" learning session, so please bring your lap top.

K-8 College Affordability Classroom Lessons | Valencia I

Session Description: It is never too early to start educating our students and families about college and how to pay for it. Many students and families primarily, if they are first generation college bound, need all the information they can get to prepare for their post-secondary goals. Participants of this session will receive engaging grade level appropriate ideas and lessons they can immediately implement in both the classroom and with parents.

Ongoing Efforts to Reform and Expand Financial Aid In California | Valencia II

Session Description: Higher education officials, state policymakers, and - most importantly - students all agree that the cost of attending college in California is prohibitively expensive for too many low- and middle-income students and families, and that the state's financial aid system is out of date and does not effectively meet the needs of today's student population. Experts from the California Student Aid Commission and the Institute for College Access and Success will discuss ongoing efforts to modernize State financial aid, including the nearly \$3 billion Cal Grant program, to best meet the needs of today's students and remove cost as a barrier to qualified students who want to pursue a higher education.

Children's Savings Account Programs: Supporting Families and Communities To Start Saving Early For College | Valencia V

Session Description: Child Savings Account Grant Programs were enacted to support local governments and nonprofit organizations that sponsor or collaborate on one or more comprehensive citywide or regional child savings account programs.

The participants of this session will discuss their experiences in the launching and growth of children's savings account programs in their communities.

Impact of FAFSA as a State Graduation Requirement: A Road Map from the State of Louisiana | Valencia VI

Session Description: Billions of dollars are left on the table when students who are eligible for the FAFSA do not file. Students who could benefit from financial aid the most are less likely to apply. Louisiana became the first state in our nation to make completing the FAFSA application as a graduation requirement. For the 2018-2019 FAFSA cycle, Louisiana led the nation with the highest number of high school seniors completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). With an overall FAFSA completion rate of 77.1%, Louisiana increased its completion rate over the previous year by 25.9%. Session participants will hear Louisiana's journey, best practices, their successes as well as their challenges from two innovative state leaders.

Breakout Session IV (10:15 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.)

Foster Youth and the Chafee Program: Strategies for Success to Engage and Support Students | Crystal A

Session Description: In the U.S. today, approximately 400,000 children and youth are in foster care at any given time and each year about 20,000 of these students emancipate (i.e., age out) of foster care. Participation in and persistence to a postsecondary credential can enhance their well-being, help them make more successful transitions to adulthood, and increase their chances for personal fulfillment and economic self-sufficiency.

This session will provide an overview of the Chafee Grant and new opportunities and programs for Foster Youth

College Planning | Crystal B

Session Description: This session serves counselors, students, and families seeking proficient tools and resources to help them and their families plan and pay for college. It includes insights into the college financial planning process that comes from the “How America Pays for College 2019” study as well as step-by-step strategies for college-bound students and their families. They will learn about the all new Paying for College Resource featuring free tools and resources including Scholarship Search, the College Planning CalculatorSM, and more.

Race to Submit Statewide Winners: Best Practices From The Schools with the Highest FAFSA and CA Dream Act Completion Rates in California | Crystal H

Session Description: The Race to Submit is a statewide campaign that aims to increase the number of financial aid applications (FAFSAs / CADAAs) for California high school seniors. These efforts were modeled after the successful 2017-18 FAFSA and CADAA Completion Initiative in Riverside.

The Race to Submit encourages all California high schools and districts to view and track their FAFSA and CADAA completion number. This initiative aims to motivate California high schools and districts to increase application count by supporting their students with FAFSA and CADAA submission. Participants of this session will hear from three state winners who will share their innovative practices, their most effective strategies, and advice on how to start improving their application submission rates.

Total Cost of College: How to Optimize Your Student’s Financial Aid | Crystal I

Session Description: The total cost of college can include a variety of items for students and families including some they might not expect. By understanding college costs, students can compare schools and explore options on how to lower their costs.

This session will provide an overview of the total cost of attendance and the various components of a financial aid package for the student (grants, loans, institutional aid, etc).

Riverside County Education Collaborative: A Systems Approach to Increase College Going Rates | Valencia I

Session Description: The Riverside County Education Collaborative (RCEC) is an innovative partnership in the Inland Empire that was formed in July 2014 in response to the White House request to help more students prepare for and graduate from college.

RCEC is a grassroots movement in southern California with diverse cross-sector leadership throughout the Riverside/San Bernardino county areas. Representing members from area school districts, higher education, city/county officials, and private industry, RCEC collectively commits to the following goals geared to increase postsecondary access and attainment in our community. Participants of this session will learn about the various initiatives RCEC has launched throughout Riverside County including Race to Submit which has led to a college going rate increase from 53% to 60% for over 30,000 graduates.

Breakout Session IV (10:15 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.)

Strategies to Ensure Students Attend College and Persist: Best Practices and Partnerships with National Student Clearinghouse | Valencia II

Session Description: How can you improve and monitor your college- and career-readiness programs to confirm they are truly making an impact in students' lives? NSC is a unique program designed to help high schools and school districts more accurately gauge the college success of their graduates by answering such key questions as: How many of our high school graduates enroll in college? Do they persist and graduate from college? Do they attend a two- or four-year school? Which colleges do they most commonly attend? Hear one county's strategies and data-driven approach to improve higher education persistency rates with the support of National Student Clearinghouse.

All In For Financial Aid - A District Policy Framework to Increase Financial Aid Application Completion | Valencia V

Session Description: Access to financial aid is critical for low-income students and students of color who want to go to college. Unfortunately, thousands of students in California who are eligible for financial aid do not receive it. Over the last two years, nearly a half million high school seniors in California did not complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADAA). Despite notable informational, awareness, and completion efforts at the local level to increase these rates, only 54% of California's high school seniors completed a financial aid application in 2018, ranking the state 30th in the nation.

While there are schools and districts making strides, more can be done to double down on making financial aid awareness and application options available to more low-income students and students of color. Educators, from superintendents to counselors, and teachers, in many schools and districts across the state are already engaging in a variety of practices to help improve financial aid awareness and completion. Through our research, The Education Trust-West identified five "components of success"- insights from diverse, cutting-edge districts and schools about best practices and strategies that are helping to close equity gaps in FAFSA and CADAA completion rates. Come to this session to learn more about these components of success and how you can implement them in your district!

AVID's Impact: Making College Readiness, Enrollment, and Persistence More Equitable | Valencia VI

Session Description: The AVID College Readiness System reduces or eliminates achievement gaps often associated with issues of equity and opportunity. Historically, students who were male, African American, Hispanic, from a low socioeconomic background, or whose parents who did not attend college were underrepresented in postsecondary education. However, AVID students with these characteristics are not underrepresented. They enroll and persist at rates that often match or exceed national comparators. This session highlights how certain high school opportunities and achievements (i.e., College entrance requirement completion, FAFSA completion, AP course enrollment, etc.) are associated with greater rates of college success. Audience members will discuss these and other key outcomes that all students should be achieving.



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from rcec.us/ccas

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