Ensuring College and Career Readiness for Students of Color and Low-Income Students
PARADISE POINT RESORT, SAN DIEGO
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH
2 PM - 7 PM  REGISTRATION ................................................................. Hotel Lobby
5:30 PM  WELCOME RECEPTION ............................................................. Paradise Terrace

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH
7:00 AM  REGISTRATION ........................................................................ Mission Bay Gallery
8:00 AM  BREAKFAST ............................................................................... Mission Bay Room
8:30 AM  OPENING WELCOME: Equity is the New Coconut Water .............. Mission Bay Room
8:50 AM  A-G FOR ALL: Superintendents’ Strategies to Increase College Eligibility and Access for Underrepresented Students Mission Bay Room
9:50 AM  ADVANCING EQUITY IN OUR WORK: Writing Activity ................. Mission Bay Room
10:05 AM  BREAK
10:25 AM  MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS ........................................... Executive Suites
A.  STEM as a Lever for English Learner Equity ........................................ 701 - 703
B.  Equity in Motion: Improving Instruction Through Assignment Alignment With the ELA Common Core Standards .............................................................. 705 - 707
C.  Using District Equity Audits to Facilitate Strategies for Closing Opportunity and Achievement Gaps .............................................................. 709 - 711
D.  Leveraging Linked Learning: Aligning Career Preparation and A-G College Requirements to Increase Equity and College and Career Access 713 - 715
11:25 AM  BREAK
11:40 AM  LUNCH & KEYNOTE PANEL .................................................... Mission Bay Room
Strengthening the Pipeline for Young Men of Color
1:05 PM  EDUCATIONAL EQUITY DISCUSSION GROUPS ......................... Mission Bay Room
1:35 PM  BREAK
1:50 PM  AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS ........................................... Executive Suites
A.  A-G Ready or Not?: Systemic Tools to Advance Equity and Ensure College Eligibility by Improving District Data Systems and Financial Aid Planning Tools ............. 701 - 703
B.  Equity in Motion: Improving Instruction through Assignment Alignment with the ELA Common Core Standards .............................................................. 705 - 707
C.  California Equity Leadership Alliance Town Hall: Making Sense of the California Way and California’s Future .............................................................. 709 - 711
D.  Math Equity Approaches: De-tracking Math and Supporting Quality Instruction for English Learners .............................................................. 713 - 715
2:50 PM  BREAK
3:10 PM  CLOSING KEYNOTE DISCUSSION ................................................. Mission Bay Room
What’s Next: Building a Movement for Educational Equity
Welcome to the 1st annual Education Trust–West Education Equity Forum. At Ed Trust–West, we hear every day from educators, policymakers, advocates, community members, and students about the urgent need to increase opportunities in California’s college access and success pipeline for low-income students and students of color. We’re excited to bring together so many equity-minded educators, administrators, and other advocates for our inaugural Education Equity Forum to share the practices, policies, and perspectives that will expand access to higher education in California.

We also know that California is at an inflection point. The upcoming year will bring forth a cadre of individuals vying for state-level leadership positions, including Governor and State Superintendent of Public Instruction, not to mention those running for thousands of local school board and other civic races across the state. The passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provides California with more flexibility in establishing accountability measures. California’s move to the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and campaigns to decriminalize adverse school discipline policies have put education equity at the center of many reforms across the state. If ever there was a time to connect, converse, and collaborate in order to support low-income students and students of color, now is the time.

Our goals for the 2017 Education Equity Forum reflect those beliefs:

• To launch an annual gathering and create a network of education equity champions in California.

• To bridge practice to policy by developing a more active presence for district and school practitioners in the policy arena and asking practitioners to inform policy recommendations.

• To facilitate sharing and learning of practices that advance college and career readiness through prioritizing education equity for students of color and low-income students.

My favorite quote comes from Bayard Rustin, a civil rights icon and architect of the March on Washington. He stated: “We need, in every community, a group of angelic troublemakers.” I am excited to partner with you now and hopefully in the future in order to do some “angelic troublemaking” to create lasting change for all of California’s students.

Onward,

Ryan J. Smith
8:30 AM  OPENING WELCOME:
Equity is the New Coconut Water  
Mission Bay Room

Ryan J. Smith will share what equity means in the current education landscape and why an equity lens is vital to improve outcomes for students. This kick off session will discuss how we can leverage the conversations and connections at Ed Equity Forum 2017 to grow a network of equity champions and partners to close opportunity gaps for students of color and low-income students. An overview of the day’s sessions bridging practice and policy will be provided.

8:50 AM  A-G FOR ALL: Superintendents’ Strategies to Increase College Eligibility and Access for Underrepresented Students  
Mission Bay Room

This session features three districts (San Francisco, San Diego, and Los Angeles Unified School Districts) that boldly aligned graduation requirements with the UC/CSU college eligibility requirements to promote equity and college access for students. District leaders Bill W. Sanderson, Cindy Marten, and Cheryl Hildreth will share the lessons they are learning as they work to support student success and dispel some of the myths concerning these district policies. They will be joined by Jorge Aguilar, newly appointed Superintendent of Sacramento City Unified Schools, who will offer insights from a groundbreaking collaborative he led between Fresno Unified School District and UC Merced to advance equity and college access for all students.

Moderator
RYAN J. SMITH  
Executive Director  
The Education Trust–West  
@RyanSmithEd

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Executive Director  
The Education Trust–West  
@RyanSmithEd

Jorge Aguilar
Superintendent  
Sacramento City Unified School District  
@officialSCUSD

Cheryl Hildreth
Superintendent, Local District West  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
@lausd_ldwest

Cindy Marten
Superintendent  
San Diego Unified School District  
@BeKindDreamBig  
@sdschools

Bill W. Sanderson
Assistant Superintendent of High Schools  
San Francisco Unified School District  
@sfusd_high
9:50 AM  ADVANCING EQUITY IN OUR WORK: Writing Activity  Mission Bay Room

How do your districts and schools advance equity and college access for students of color and low income students? We will pause to reflect and write about how we are working to advance equity and college access in our local schools. This writing activity will be used for discussions after lunch.

10:05 AM  BREAK

10:25 AM  MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS  Executive Suites

A. STEM as a Lever For English Learner Equity  Executive Suites 701 - 703

While schools and districts are implementing the Next Generation Science Standards, the learning needs and experiences of English learners must remain central to districts’ instructional practices to achieve equity. This panel discussion and workshop will highlight research-based STEM instructional and professional learning practices that are yielding promising results for English learners.

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DR. ANYA HURWITZ
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TAMAYE OTA
Assistant Professor of Education
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Moderator
RACHEL RUFFALO
Senior Practice Associate
The Education Trust–West
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B. EQUITY IN MOTION: Improving Instruction Through Assignment Alignment With the ELA Common Core Standards  Executive Suites 705 - 707

In this session, participants will learn about The Education Trust’s Literacy Assignment Analysis Guide, a tool which can be used district-wide to examine equity in instructional practice. This interactive workshop will provide the opportunity to try out this practitioner-focused tool that strengthens ELA assignments by identifying the level of rigor and alignment to common core standards.

DR. TANJI REED MARSHALL
Senior Practice Associate
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DR. SARAH FELDMAN
Director of Practice
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MAYRA LARA
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TAMAYE OTA
Assistant Professor of Education
Fresno Pacific University
@tamayeota
C. Using District Equity Audits to Facilitate Strategies for Closings Opportunity and Achievement Gaps

San Jose Unified School District Superintendent Emeritus Dr. Linda Murray will facilitate a discussion with four district leaders whose districts partnered with The Education Trust–West to study opportunity and equity gaps and develop action plans for closing those gaps. District leaders will reflect on which strategies were most effective for advancing student equity and college access for students of color and low-income students, and offer suggestions on applying the practice in other districts.

Moderator:
DR. LINDA MURRAY
XQ Superintendent in Residence/Strategic Advisor
@XQAmerica

D. LEVERAGING LINKED LEARNING: Aligning Career Preparation and A-G College Requirements to Increase Equity in College and Career Access

This session explores Linked Learning, an approach integrating rigorous academics that meet college-ready standards with sequenced, high-quality career-technical education, work-based learning, and supports to help students stay on track. Research shows that students who complete Linked Learning pathways have higher rates of engagement and higher graduation rates than their peers who did not enroll in Linked Learning pathways. Join us to learn from Linked Learning experts about the guiding principles and characteristics of successful Linked Learning pathways to prepare students for college and careers.

Moderator:
MAYRA LARA
Senior Practice Associate
The Education Trust–West
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11:25 AM   BREAK
The societal narrative about young men of color does not often portray them as scholars, and too frequently, they go through high school and college encountering a host of barriers to postsecondary access and success. Yet we know that young men of color thrive when held to high expectations and when provided the right academic and socioemotional supports. Hear from experts in the field who will share their insights from research and practice about what it takes to support young men of color to and through college.

Dig deeper with us in discussion on what it really means to advance equity in schools and districts. What are some of the key strategies your school/district or those you partner with are trying? Where does your school/district fall short? What are the implications of advancing equity in your work? Join The Education Trust–West to create a network of Equity Champions.
A. A-G READY OR NOT?: Systemic Tools to Advance Equity and Ensure College Eligibility by Improving District Data Systems and Financial Aid Planning Tools

This workshop will highlight data-backed tools that advance equity in districts and schools. From transcript data and student grade monitoring to A-G course alignment and college access support systems, how well a district data system functions can either hinder or advance equity. Join Ed Trust–West and Institute for Evidence-Based Change (IEBC) to learn practical strategies for improving data systems and solidifying strong internal support systems for students. Promising practices in this session will emphasize tactics that increase college eligibility and financial aid access.

Moderator
DR. SARAH FELDMAN
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JANINE BOCCIARDI
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B. EQUITY IN MOTION: Improving Instruction through Assignment Alignment with the ELA Common Core Standards

In this session, participants will learn about The Education Trust’s Literacy Assignment Analysis Guide, a tool which can be used district-wide to examine equity in instructional practice. This interactive workshop will provide the opportunity to try out this practitioner-focused tool that strengthens ELA assignments by identifying the level of rigor and alignment to common core standards.

Moderator
RACHEL RUFFALO
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DR. TANJI REED MARSHALL
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C. CALIFORNIA EQUITY LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE TOWN HALL:
Making Sense of the California Way and California’s Future

California is at an inflection point. The passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provides California with more flexibility in establishing accountability measures. California’s move to the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and campaigns to decriminalize school discipline have put educational equity at the center of many reforms across the state. The upcoming year will also bring forth a cadre of individuals vying for state-level positions, including Governor and State Superintendent of Public Instruction, not to mention those running for the thousands of local races across the state. Join members of the California Equity Leadership Alliance (CELA) to learn about how California education leaders are approaching these changes and to hear what they think is in store for California’s future.

Moderator
RYAN J. SMITH
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Moderator
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VERNON BILLY
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SHERRY SKELLY GRIFFITH
Executive Director
California State Parent Teachers Association (CAPTA)
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DR. WESLEY SMITH
Executive Director
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@ACSAwes

DR. DAVID VERDUGO
Executive Director
California Association of Latino Superintendents and Administrators (CALSA)
@CALSAfamilia
Math has traditionally been a gatekeeper for college entry and success. A significant body of research cites the harmful results of tracking in math – especially for students of color and students living in poverty. However, equity-minded districts across the state are successfully passing and implementing math de-tracking policies. Join us to learn how districts are implementing rigorous instructional practices for all students, with a particular focus on English learners, and supporting teachers to effectively differentiate instruction in heterogeneous classrooms.

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STEM Executive Director
San Francisco Unified School District
@SFUnified

SUNNY CHIN-LOOK
Instructional Specialist in Mathematics
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WHAT’S NEXT: Building a Movement for Educational Equity
With the current shifting political landscape, building a broad network of educational equity champions is all the more important if we want to close opportunity and achievement gaps in this generation. This closing keynote session will feature Dr. John B. King Jr., former Secretary of Education in President Barack Obama’s administration and current President and CEO of The Education Trust, and Ryan J. Smith, Executive Director of The Education Trust–West, in conversation about the current opportunities to advance educational equity nationally and in California. Dr. King will speak to how states and the federal government can prioritize strengthening the college and career pipeline for low income students and students of color, what he’s heard from educators, and what he’s seen working in schools and districts around the country. John and Ryan will close out this year’s forum with this thoughtful discussion of what’s on the horizon for educational equity champions.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We appreciate the many educators, administrators, and other advocates that took time to gather for this year’s forum including the nearly 60 schools, districts, and higher education institutions that sent participants. We also thank the many funders who made this year’s forum possible, including the California Community Foundation, Marin Community Foundation, S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, the College Futures Foundation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Silver Giving Foundation, and the Evelyn & Walter Haas Jr. Fund.

OUR MISSION

The Education Trust–West works for the high academic achievement of all students at all levels, pre-K through college. We expose opportunity and achievement gaps that separate students of color and low-income students from other youth, and we identify and advocate for the strategies that will forever close those gaps.