Hans Johnson is director of the PPIC Higher Education Center and a senior fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California. As center director, he works with a team of researchers to identify policies that can make higher education policy more successful and sustainable. His own research focuses on improving college access and completion. He frequently presents his work to policymakers and higher education officials, and he serves as a technical advisor to many organizations seeking to improve college graduation rates, address workforce needs, and engage in long-term capacity planning. His other areas of expertise include international and domestic migration, housing in California, and population projections. Previously, he served as research director at PPIC. Before joining PPIC, he worked as a demographer at the California Research Bureau and at the California Department of Finance. He holds a PhD in demography and a master’s degree in biostatistics from the University of California, Berkeley.

Janet Napolitano became the 20th president of the University of California in 2013. She leads a university system with ten campuses, five medical centers, three affiliated national laboratories, and a statewide agriculture and natural resources program. As UC president, she has launched initiatives to stabilize in-state tuition and achieve financial stability for the University; improve the community college transfer process; achieve carbon neutrality across the UC system by 2025; accelerate the translation of UC research into products and services; and focus UC resources on local and global food issues. She served as secretary of homeland security from 2009 to 2013, governor of Arizona from 2003 to 2009, attorney general of Arizona from 1998 to 2003, and US attorney for the District of Arizona from 1993 to 1997. In 2014, she was appointed a tenured faculty member of UC Berkeley’s Goldman School of Public Policy, and in 2015 she was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She holds a JD from the University of Virginia School of Law and a BS from Santa Clara University.
Eloy Ortiz Oakley has been chancellor of the California Community Colleges since December 2016. He is also a University of California regent, serving a ten-year term that began in 2014. Before he became chancellor, he served as superintendent and president of the Long Beach Community College District (LBCCD). He also previously served as LBCCD’s executive vice president of administrative services. He was vice president of college services at Oxnard College from 2001 to 2002 and an assistant vice president at Keenan and Associates from 1999 to 2001. In addition to serving on the PPIC Higher Education Center Advisory Council, he serves on the boards and committees of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, the California Forward Leadership Council, the College Futures Foundation, the American Association of Community Colleges, the YMCA of Greater Long Beach, and the Long Beach Rotary Club. He served in the US Army and earned both his MBA and bachelor’s degrees from the University of California, Irvine.

Kim Polese is chair of the consumer finance company ClearStreet, Inc. A Silicon Valley entrepreneur, she was previously CEO of the software company SpikeSource, Inc. She made Time magazine’s list of the 25 Most Influential Americans in 1997 after cofounding the software company Marimba, Inc. She also worked at Sun Microsystems—where she was the founding product manager of Java, the technology that brought interactivity to the Web—and IntelliCorp, Inc. She serves on the PPIC Higher Education Center Advisory Council and has been a member of PPIC’s board of directors since 2011. She is an Aspen Institute Crown Fellow and serves on the boards of TechNet, the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, the Long Now Foundation, and the Global Security Institute. She is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, and studied computer science at the University of Washington.

Timothy White is chancellor of the California State University, one of the most influential, inclusive, and populous systems of higher education in the United States. He guides 23 campuses and a community of more than half a million students, faculty, and staff—along with more than three million alumni. The seventh CSU chancellor, he is a champion of student success and aims to bring individualized education to scale through the expansion of proven best practices. At the state and national levels, he advocates for a comprehensive learning environment that links classroom learning to practice through research, creative activity, and community engagement. A product of California’s Master Plan, he pursued his higher education at Diablo Valley Community College, Fresno State, California State University, East Bay, and the University of California, Berkeley. Like many CSU students and alumni, he was the first in his family to earn a college degree.

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