

PARTICIPANTS

Marty Alvarado is executive vice chancellor for educational services in the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. She is responsible for policies and programs related to student support, instructional delivery, and curriculum with the aim of increasing student success rates and closing achievement gaps. She received a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Whittier College in California and an MA in philosophy and cultural analysis from the Universiteit van Amsterdam in the Netherlands.

Sarah Bohn is director of research and a senior fellow at PPIC, where she holds the John and Louise Bryson Chair in Policy Research. She is also a member of the PPIC Higher Education Center. As director of research, she works with PPIC staff to bring high-quality, nonpartisan research to important policy issues in California. Her own research focuses on the role of social safety net policy and education policy in alleviating poverty and enhancing economic mobility. She holds a PhD in economics from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Autumn Burke represents California's 62nd Assembly District. A Los Angeles native, she is an entrepreneur and small business owner with a proven record of business development and community outreach. She has worked to help provide pathways to green technology and energy efficiency for neighborhoods big and small. She is focused on expanding access to health care, education, and solid jobs for all. She is chair of the Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation. She also serves as chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Career Technical Education and Building a 21st-Century Workforce.

Deborah Gonzalez is director of government affairs at PPIC. She and her staff work to connect PPIC research with policymakers and community leaders. A longtime Capitol staffer, she served as policy and fiscal director for six legislative leaders and worked on a wide variety of issues—including the state budget, education reform, infrastructure funding, and public safety. She holds a law degree from the McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific, and a BA from Claremont McKenna College, where she majored in international relations.

Shannon McConville is a senior research associate at PPIC. Her research interests include health care access, utilization, and outcomes among vulnerable populations and the impact of vocational training programs on economic mobility. Her current work focuses on examining safety net programs, assessing the effects of Medicaid coverage expansions on individuals involved with the criminal justice system, and analyzing the employment outcomes and economic returns of career technical education. She holds a master's in public policy from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Alma Salazar is senior vice president of the Center for Education Excellence and Talent Development for the LA Area Chamber of Commerce, where she oversees education and workforce development programs and directs higher education and workforce development policies. In 2012, she was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to serve on the California Workforce Development Board. Since 2000, she has worked to build business and education partnerships to improve academic achievement and life-long learning for California's students. She convenes diverse stakeholders to promote systems-change and strengthen the region's workforce development system by enhancing pathways to high-demand, high-growth industries and sustainable careers. She graduated from California State University, Long Beach, with a bachelor's degree in speech communications, a master's in public policy and administration, and an EdD in educational leadership.