

PARTICIPANTS

Marisol Cuellar Mejia is a senior research associate at the [PPIC Higher Education Center](#). Her recent projects have focused on developmental education, the workforce skills gap, online learning in community colleges, and the economic returns to college education. Her research interests include labor markets, business climate, housing, and demographic trends. Before joining PPIC, she worked at Colombia's National Association of Financial Institutions as an economic analyst, concentrating on issues related to the manufacturing sector and small business. She has also conducted agricultural and commodity market research for the Colombian National Federation of Coffee Growers and the National Federation of Palm Oil Growers of Colombia. She holds an MS in agricultural and resource economics from the University of California, Davis.

Dr. Aisha Lowe is the vice chancellor of educational services for California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. She provides leadership for activities including transfer and noncredit curriculum, technology strategic planning, global education, special project management, and systemwide technical assistance delivery. Previously, she served as associate professor of education and dean of the Office of Academic Research at William Jessup University, leading the university's strategic academic research plan and academic grant-making. Additionally, she has been an adjunct professor at the Los Rios Community College District, Sierra College, and California State University, Sacramento. Over the past 20 years, she has worked with at-risk youth, taught middle school, led educational research and policy efforts, instructed college students, served as a university administrator, and as an independent consultant supporting the research and evaluation needs of schools, organizations, and educators. She has also served as the executive director of STAND UP for Great Schools and director of research for the California Charter Schools Association. She earned a bachelor's degree in psychology, a master's in sociology, and a PhD in education from Stanford University.

Virginia May is a professor of mathematics and statistics at Sacramento City College and vice president of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC). She is the chair of the Legislative and Advocacy Committee, co-chair of the Guided Pathways Task Force, a member of the Equity and Diversity Action Committee, Chancellor's Office Consultation Council, an advisor on AB 705 Implementation and Evaluation, and Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates. Her other recent roles have included RP Group strategic advisor, CSU General Education Advisory Committee, IGETC Standards Committee, Curriculum Committee, California Community Colleges Curriculum Committee, Accreditation Committee, Educational Policies Committee, and Transfer, Articulation, and Student Services Committee. In addition to her work on the ASCCC, she has held numerous leadership positions at college, district, state, and regional levels, including president of college and district academic senates; chair of the Accreditation Faculty and Curriculum Committee, president of the ASCCC Foundation, ACCJC commissioner, and a member of many accreditation visiting teams. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics from California State University, Sacramento.

Olga Rodriguez is a research fellow at the [PPIC Higher Education Center](#). She conducts research on the impact of programs and policies on student outcomes, with a particular focus on equity, college access, and success among underserved students. Her recent research focuses on statewide reforms to developmental education, English as a second language, and assessment and placement systems in California's community colleges. Before joining PPIC, she was a postdoctoral research associate at the Community College Research Center at Teachers College, Columbia University. She holds a BA in economics/mathematics and Spanish from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and an MA and PhD in economics and education from Columbia University.

Myra Snell is a professor of mathematics at Los Medanos College and co-founder of the California Acceleration Project (CAP), a faculty-led professional development network. CAP supports California's community colleges in implementing reforms that substantially increase equitable student completion of lower-division math and

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English requirements for university transfer. Along with CAP co-founder Katie Hern, she was named one of the "16 Most Innovative People in Higher Education" by the *Washington Monthly*. As a nationally recognized expert in remedial math reform, she has worked with Carnegie-Mellon's Open Learning Initiative in Statistics and consulted with the Statway Project of the Carnegie Foundation for Teaching. In 2015, she was a finalist for the national Faculty Innovation Award from the American Association of Community Colleges. She holds a master's degree in pure mathematics from the University of California, Berkeley.