

PARTICIPANTS

Nikki Edgcombe is a senior research scientist at the Community College Research Center (CCRC) at Columbia University's Teachers College. She conducts research on developmental education, reform implementation, minority-serving institutions, education equity, teaching and learning, instructional technology, and student support services. She is the lead on several projects, including the Postsecondary Language and Literacy Learning (PL3) project, a study of developmental English and English as a Second Language reform; the Mathematics Pathways to Completion evaluation, an examination of the scaling of the Charles A. Dana Center's model in several states; and the Analysis of Statewide Developmental Education Reform. Previously, she led the Scaling Innovation in the Community College project as well as work on accelerated developmental education models, student success courses, and online courses in community colleges. She came to CCRC from JP Morgan, where she was a research analyst responsible for assessing the performance of publicly traded companies and evaluating the effects of federal and state policy on strategy and execution. She studied teacher learning and school-based professional development at the Urban Education Institute and Consortium on Chicago School Research at the University of Chicago. She holds a PhD in education from the University of Pennsylvania and a BA from Columbia University, where she majored in urban studies and economics.

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.

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.

Laura Metune is vice chancellor of external relations. She oversees a division that represents the chancellor's office before the legislative and executive branches of the state and federal governments. She has an extensive background with state government. Before she joined the Chancellor's Office in 2016, she served as chief consultant for the Assembly Committee on Higher Education. As the California State Assembly's lead higher education policy staffer, she helped write and win passage of landmark legislation related to student consumer protections, financial aid, and other postsecondary issues. In 2016, she was appointed to serve as a member of the Local Control and Accountability Plan Parent Advisory Committee of the Sacramento City Unified School District. In 2012, she was appointed by Governor Brown as the bureau chief for the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education. She transferred from American River College to earn a bachelor's degree in government 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 college access and success among underserved students. Her recent research focuses on statewide developmental education reform, assessment and placement systems, and place-based efforts to help students get into and through college. Before joining PPIC, she was a postdoctoral research associate at the Community College Research Center at Teachers College, Columbia University. She holds a PhD in economics and education from Columbia University.

Myra Snell is math lead and cofounder of the California Acceleration Project. A nationally recognized expert in remedial math reform, she has helped 45 California community colleges implement placement and remediation reforms that have substantially improved math completion rates and outcomes for students of color. Her primary focus in remediation redesign involves statistics pathways designed for students placed into math remediation who are not pursuing math-intensive programs of study. In 2015, she was one of four finalists for the national Faculty Innovation Award from the American Association of Community Colleges. In 2016 she was named one of the 16 most innovative people in higher education by *Washington Monthly*. She has taught mathematics at Los Medanos College for 25 years. She holds a master's degree in mathematics from the University of California, Berkeley.