



ADVOCACY & POLICY CONFERENCE

Creating Equity Through Policy & Action

March 6-7, 2022
Holiday Inn, Sacramento



Welcome to the Advocacy & Policy Conference

Nostalgia is a powerful drug. It is tempting to glorify the past and believe our community college system was better several decades ago. The reality is that America's educational systems are based on systemic racist practices. We have a responsibility to examine and change our processes to remedy the inequities; however, our mission has always been a solid one: to admit any student who could benefit from instruction regardless of their educational or career goal. The faculty of the California Community Colleges remain steadfast and focused on open access and preserving our mission to educate all who can benefit from learning, but there is a threat that we must confront.

Special interest organizations pushing messages like "California Community Colleges are failing our students" have successfully passed legislation touting oversimplified answers to improve education, increase transfer, and close equity gaps. After an entire decade of special interest legislation, and even with the extraordinary efforts by faculty dedicated to fulfilling these mandates, little progress has been made in closing the gaps. Conversely, in attempting to satisfy these mandates, colleges have diverted precious resources from many of our programs, particularly career education and life-long learner programs, and shifted the mission of the community colleges to an almost singular focus on student transfer.

The 2021 legislative session revealed new and significant concerns for community colleges. A large cross-section of system practitioners and partners opposed Assemblymember Berman's large transfer bill, AB 928, yet the bill slid through the legislative process without a hiccup. It is obvious that outside special interests groups, well funded by corporate foundations, have more influence on California's higher education policy than its own practitioners, students, faculty, administrators, trustees, and staff.

How do we reverse this trend? We must build an army of practitioner advocates and encourage collaboration among system practitioners who hold mutual interests in pertinent policy areas. Your attendance at this conference signifies your readiness to answer the call to engage with policy makers and question these mandates.

Our 55,000 faculty members need to build influence and relationships with state legislators. New political districts were created following the 2020 Census, causing a shuffling of political representation throughout the state. FACCC has a strong track record of sponsoring and passing legislation that genuinely supports student success. With your support we can advocate to amend or stop those bills that are harmful to students, faculty, and the community college mission.

As we emerge and heal from the pandemic, we must build a just and equitable education system. We need to preserve our mission by inserting ourselves in the state-level decision making process while creating more racially just policies at our colleges. FACCC welcomes you to our Advocacy & Policy Conference and hope that you take the conversations you hear here back to your colleges to build a coalition of advocates for this crucial work.

Wendy Brill-Wynkoop, FACCC, President

Sunday, March 6

10:00 - 10:15 a.m. **Welcome | California Room | Wendy Brill-Wynkoop, FACCC, President**

10:15 - 11:15 a.m. **Keynote: The Big Comeback | Dr. Daniel E. Walker**
Centered on the realities of life in a global pandemic, The Big Comeback emphasizes civil dialogue, collaboration, and activism while inspiring audiences to recommit themselves to the mission of educational excellence and equity.

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. **Lunch | California Room**

12:15 - 12:30 p.m. **Break**

12:30 - 1:40 p.m. **Concurrent Sessions: A or B**

A. Valuing Student Voices: Working Together Towards Advocacy

Room: Fresno

A panel facilitated conversation where the audience will hear lessons learned from panelists' experiences with advocacy to encourage dialogue on the steps necessary to successfully advocate on campus. Participants will have the opportunity to practice advocacy steps during the session. The goal is to empower students and faculty with the confidence of ultimately turning advocacy into action and implementing meaningful change locally.

Panel: Jasmine Prasad, SSCCC, Vice President, Legislative Affairs; Stephanie Leonor del Cid, Compton Associated Student Body, President; Jim Nguyen, Foothill-De Anza, Political Science Department; Sally Saenger, Santa Barbara City College, Part-Time Faculty

B. Advocacy & Legislative Session: Building Relationships with New Legislators

Room: El Dorado

The boundaries that determine legislative districts are redrawn each decade, bringing changes to the composition of the legislature including many new legislators coming to Sacramento. The significant 20 percent turnover impacts policy conversations and requires faculty advocates to quickly build relationships with new representatives. This session will provide you with the tools to build relationships with newly elected legislators while leveraging your experience and expertise as a faculty member to educate legislators on the most pressing ongoing and upcoming policy issues.

Panel: Virginia May, ASCCC, Vice President; Wendy Brill-Wynkoop, FACCC, President; Patrick Ahrens, Assemblymember Evan Low, District Director and Foothill-De Anza Community College District, Board Member; Evan Hawkins, FACCC, Executive Director

1:40 - 1:50 p.m. **Break**

Sunday, March 6

1:50 - 3:05 p.m.

Academic Freedom and Embracing the College Classroom: Valuing Culturally Responsive Practices and Decolonization in Curriculum

Room: California

As scholars who value critical thinking, we have the responsibility to solidify and validate the foundation of critical inquiry across disciplines. As faculty, we strive to maintain our purview over curriculum and recognize the value of academic freedom to teach the truth within our disciplines. Weaponizing collegiality and academic freedom works against these values. Instead we should use our position and power to shift culture and mindsets from traditional methods in academia to more inclusive, broader, and culturally responsive practices that address our painful past and embrace a hopeful future, void of racism and filled with joy and healing, while still honoring the tenets and principles of academic freedom.

Panel: Michelle Velasquez Bean, ASCCC, Treasurer and Chair of Equity and Diversity Action Committee; Dr. Abdimalik Buul, CCCCCO, Visiting Executive of Educational Excellence Employment Opportunity Program; Julie Bruno, Sierra College, Professor of Communications; Wendy Brill-Wynkoop, FACCC, President

3:05 - 3:15 p.m.

Break

3:15 - 4:20 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions: A or B

A. System Partners Conversation: Increasing Practitioner Influence in the Legislative Process

Room: Fresno

As system practitioners we have a deep understanding of the nuances of the community college system through our work with students; however, the legislature often passes over our expertise in favor of initiatives from outside interest groups. Join this panel of community college stakeholders to discuss how we can better collaborate to ensure the success of our system.

Panel: Dolores Davison, ASCCC, President; Ryan McElhinney, CCLC, Policy & Advocacy Manager; Gerardo Chavez, SSSCC, President; David O'Brien, CCCCCO, Vice Chancellor of Government Relations

B. Creating Equitable Opportunities: Policy Approaches to Ensuring Cost Transparency and Textbook Affordability

Room: El Dorado

While the basic cost of attending a California Community College is not a barrier to pursuing an education, the costs of living in California and of purchasing required course materials can impede a student's progress as basic needs may be prioritized over the purchase of textbooks, access codes, and other educational expenses. What local policies, regulations, legislation, and federal requirements exist to promote textbook affordability and ensure cost transparency? Following a review of existing requirements, including funding to address textbook costs (i.e., the Zero-Textbook-Cost Degree Grant Program), the effectiveness of these requirements and future policy directions will be discussed.

Speakers: Michelle Pilati, ASCCC Open Educational Resources Initiative, Faculty Coordinator; Julie Bruno, ASCCC Open Educational Resources Initiative, Communications Lead

Sunday, March 6

4:20 - 4:30 p.m.

Break

4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Faculty Awards Reception

Room: Sierra Ballroom – 16th floor

- Faculty of the Year Award, Nicole Faudree, College of the Canyons
- Dean Murakami Advocate of the Year Award, Sally Saenger, Santa Barbara City College
- Emancipation Through Education Award, David Ramírez, Southwestern College
- Jonathan Lightman FACCTivist Award, Paul Baltimore, Los Rios Community College District

Monday, March 7

9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Breakfast | California Room

10:00 - 10:10 a.m.

Welcome | Wendy Brill-Wynkoop, FACCC, President

10:10 - 11:00 a.m.

2022-2023 Budget Cycle: A Local and Statewide Faculty Perspective

In January, the Governor proposed a record state budget of \$286 billion, including over \$800 million in new funding for community colleges. Budget surpluses are welcome news for chronically underfunded community colleges; however, the way funding is allocated is just as important as the amount. This session will provide faculty perspectives on the potential impact of the state budget proposal in both the local and state contexts while also outlining FACCC's positions on budget augmentations.

Panel: Sarah Thompson, Las Positas Academic Senate, President, FACCC, Governor for Contract Faculty; Evan Hawkins, FACCC, Executive Director; Deirdre Frontczak, Santa Rosa Junior College, FACCC, Part-Time Officer

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Legislative & FACCC PAC Awards

Legislative Staff of the Year Award

- Megan Baier, former staff of Senate President Pro Tempore, Toni Atkins

Legislator of the Year Award

- Senator John Laird, Chair, Senate Budget, Subcommittee 1

FACCC PAC Champion

- Assemblymember Miguel Santiago

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