

# Stephanie Goldman

## Rejoins the Fight for Faculty as Executive Director

By Stephanie Goldman, FACCC Executive Director

Education is under attack. Vital pillars of this country's educational system are being systematically dismantled, and it is imperative for us to fight back. As a member of FACCC, you are in a prominent position to be a leader and ensure that faculty voices are heard. This is one of the many reasons for which I am proud to rejoin FACCC—this time, as its executive director.

My journey with FACCC began seven years ago when I was hired as the director of external affairs by the legendary Jonathan Lightman. As one of FACCC's lobbyists, I was thrown into the fight for faculty rights, working to maintain the support and respect that our educators deserved.

In 2018, alongside colleagues and faculty, we worked to push back against the newly proposed Student Centered Funding Formula, recognizing that it would unfairly and inequitably constrain many of our colleges. Years later, what so many faculty predicted would happen if this formula were adopted has occurred, and we are still in the trenches fighting against it.

Throughout my time as FACCC's lobbyist, the membership engaged in major legislative battles to protect our institutions and students, including:

- Opposition to AB 928 (Berman, 2021) — a transfer-related bill that purports to automatically place students in an associate degree for transfer (ADT) program for the CSU, regardless of their academic goals.
- Opposition to AB 1705 (Irwin, 2022) — a measure that effectively eliminated most remedial options and threatens student choice. We continue to fight against this (see page 8).



But I'm also incredibly proud of the bills we helped pass, each making real improvements in the California Community Colleges system. These bills all originated from our members and are the result of real issues they identified:

- AB 595 (Medina, 2019) allows undocumented immigrant students to use ITINs (Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers) instead of Social Security numbers when applying for internships that require background checks.
- AB 706 (Low, 2019) eliminated the time limit on the transfer of sick leave between districts.
- AB 2477 (Berman, 2020) expanded the use of restricted lottery funds to include basic needs support.
- AB 1326 (Arambula, 2021) allows students, faculty, and staff to use their chosen name on all non-legal documents. This policy has since been expanded to the University of California and the California State University system.

- AB 2315 (Arambula, 2022) required counties to appoint a liaison as a resource for college counselors assisting students who may benefit from county programs, like housing or food insecurity.

Each of these legislative wins underscores why faculty advocacy matters and why it's crucial for all of us to stay engaged in these efforts.

After leaving FACCC in 2022, I worked directly with students at the Student Senate for California Community Colleges, helping them develop their advocacy platform and find their voices in policymaking. This experience reminded me how closely linked faculty and student success are—we are in this fight together.

As I return to FACCC, I'm more determined than ever to uplift FACCC's mission and vision. We must work together to fight for faculty rights, expand FACCC's membership, strengthen education opportunities, and ensure that faculty voices are heard at both the state and federal levels. We're in a critical moment.

Across the country, we're seeing attacks on equity, academic freedom, and the very foundation of higher education. Now is the time for faculty to unite, speak up, and take action.

FACCC isn't just an organization—it's a community of passionate, dedicated educators who believe in the power of education. Our members are the reason that we've made real policy changes, and I'm honored to stand alongside you in this fight.

As we progress, I invite every faculty member to become involved in new and meaningful ways. Whether it's through advocacy, professional development, or membership engagement, we need your voices. If you have concerns or ideas, contact us. This is your organization, and your views are essential to shaping the future of our profession. You can email me directly at [sgoldman@faccc.org](mailto:sgoldman@faccc.org). ■



FACCC Executive Director Stephanie Goldman, President Wendy Brill-Wynkoop, Congressman Dave Min, alongside other California Community College stakeholders