
Information/Action Item

California Student Aid Commission

Policy discussion on higher education policy priorities affecting student access and affordability with Michele Siqueiros, Executive Director of The Campaign for College Opportunity

Michele Siqueiros, Executive Director of The Campaign for College Opportunity, has been invited by the Commission to address the work of the Campaign on the higher education issues of college affordability, access and success. The following background information was made available through The Campaign for College Opportunity website www.collegecampaign.org.

The Campaign for College Opportunity is a California non-profit organization co-founded in 2003 by the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the California Business Roundtable, and the Community College League of California. The Campaign has a small professional staff and is headquartered in Los Angeles with offices in Sacramento and Modesto.

The Campaign's mission is to ensure our state produces one million additional college graduates between now and 2025 to meet the workforce demands of the future and ensure California's economic prosperity. The Campaign for College Opportunity recently adopted policy priorities which include insisting the Governor and state legislature create a public agenda for higher education that is based on investing in higher education to meet statewide priorities; improving the transfer pathway from two-year colleges to four-year universities; promoting policy and finance reforms that support improved student outcomes; and ensuring early college awareness and college readiness for a broader number of California's youth.

BOARD MEMBERS

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David Wolf	<i>CCO Co-Founder & Chair, Sonoma County Board of Education</i>

STAFF

Michele Siqueiros currently serves as the Executive Director for The Campaign for College Opportunity, where she works to expand college opportunity to the next generation of California students by promoting policy solutions, working with the media, and engaging a broad based and bi-partisan coalition of Californians to become advocates for college opportunity in this state. She is based in Los Angeles.

Prior to her position as Executive Director, she was the Associate Director of the Campaign from 2004-08. Before joining the Campaign, she served as a Senior Project Coordinator with the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment in the City of Los Angeles, where she facilitated the development and support of a citywide system of Neighborhood Councils that advise local policymakers on neighborhood priorities.

Prior to that position, she was the founding Program Manager for Public Allies-Los Angeles, where she was responsible for managing partnerships between community-based organizations and Public Allies. She also served as Assistant Director of Constituency Services for the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund (NALEO), where she was responsible for establishing and coordinating all aspects of NALEO's nationwide training and technical assistance programs.

Michele has also taught Citizenship and English classes for adults in the Los Angeles Unified School District and worked as a community organizer on a variety of political campaigns in the Los Angeles area.

In the fall of 2005, she was appointed by Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa to serve as a Commissioner for the Board of Neighborhoods, which oversees the City-wide system of Neighborhood Councils and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. She also serves on the PTA of her children's school.

In the spring of 2008, La Opinion named her one of Los Angeles' Mujeres Destacadas – Outstanding Woman for her leadership on education.

Michele graduated from Pitzer College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Studies and Honors in Chicano/a Studies. She received her Master of Arts in Urban Planning from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA).

Responsible Person(s): Diana Fuentes-Michel
Executive Director
California Student Aid Commission