

# STRATEGIC PLANNING CONFERENCE: HIGHER EDUCATION FOR A NEW GENERATION



September 26, 2015 • 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Capitol Plaza Hall Temple Ballroom  
1025 9th Street, Suite 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## EVENT SPONSORS

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Union of American Physicians  
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# RECLAIM

*California's Master Plan for Higher Education*

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QUALITY • AFFORDABLE • ACCESSIBLE

## STRATEGIC PLANNING CONFERENCE: HIGHER EDUCATION FOR A NEW GENERATION AGENDA

8:00 am to 9:00 am - registration/refreshments/networking

OPENING REMARKS – Pat Gantt, President of the CSU Employees Union/SEIU 2579

9:00 am to 10:00 am - PANEL – Facilitated by coalition leader Joe Kiskis

***The Master Plan Then and Now: What was the Original Donahoe Act of 1960? What has it Become Today?***

- Richard Hansen – President of the California Community College Independents
- Stanton Glantz – President of the Council of University of California Faculty Associations
- Joseph Palermo – Professor of History at California State University, Sacramento
- Dahlia Salem – Secretary, Student Senate for California Community Colleges
- Guillermo Rogel - Board Chair of the University of California Student Association.

10:00 am to 11:00 am - BREAKOUT SESSION

***Core Concepts/Core Values: Visions for Public Higher Education Policy Moving Forward***

- This is for group work to get participant input

11:00 am to 12:00 noon - PANEL – Facilitated by coalition leader Abenicio Cisneros

***Competing Interests: Funding Public Higher Education Along with Other Societal Needs***

- Chris Hoene - Executive Director of the California Budget and Policy Center
- Jonathan Lightman – Executive Director of the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges
- Lenny Goldberg – Executive Director of the California Tax Reform Association

12:00 noon to 1:00 pm - ***\*provided lunch\**** and **KEY NOTE SPEECH** Congressman Eric Swalwell

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm - PANEL – Facilitated by Congressman Eric Swalwell

***Student Perspectives/Student Concerns***

- Edward Chavez - Organizer with the Student Union of San Francisco
- Shanell Williams – Student Labor Action Project
- Harvey Gunderman – Chair of SSSCC Region II and the Vice Chair of the Region Leaders Council
- Isabel Escobar – Luther Burbank High School Law and Social Justice Academy
- Iman Sylvain - University Affairs Chair of the UC Student Association

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm - BREAKOUT SESSION

***Next Steps: Advocacy in the 2015-2016 Legislative budget cycle***

- This is for group work to get participant input

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm - PANEL Facilitated by coalition leader Rodney Orr

***Elected Representatives: What Do the Legislative Champions for Public Higher Education Envision?***

- Estevan Santana – Assembly Member Susan Bonilla’s office
- Alejandra Duran – Assembly member Tony Thurmond’s office
- Victor Costa – President, Student Senate for California Community Colleges
- Kevin Sabo – President, University of California Student Association

4:00 pm to 5:00 pm - BREAKOUT SESSION

***Getting Active: What Can we do Right Now?***

CLOSING REMARKS – Jelger Kalmijn, President, UPTC-CWA Local 9119





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## PANELIST AND FACILITATOR BIOGRAPHIES –

### *Opening Remarks*

**Pat Gantt** has served as president of the 14,500-member California State University Employees Union since 2003. Under his stewardship, the union continues to lead its members to activism on behalf of strong CSU budgets and related urgent issues. During his tenure, Gantt has negotiated a re-affiliation agreement with the Services Employees International Union that returned over \$2 million in funds and rebated fees, and he has allied other unions and the CSU Office of the Chancellor to fight CSU budget cuts in recent state budgets.

Gantt, who holds a Bachelor of Arts in agricultural science from CSU Chico, has served since 1992 as an instructional support assistant for the psychology and biology departments at CSU Chico; he is currently on leave to pursue his union duties full-time. From 1980 to 1992, he held posts as livestock technician and manager of the dairy unit at the CSU Chico College of Agriculture University Farm.

Gantt has been involved in CSUEU activities for the last 20-plus years, serving as a steward and trainer, as a Representation Committee and bargaining team member, and as chair of Bargaining Unit 9 and the Communications Committee. In 1991, he was the main plaintiff in a class action lawsuit with over 200 employees that changed overtime rules in the CSU system, and since 1998 he has served as chair of the CSU Labor Council, comprised of all CSU unions.

Born and reared in Los Angeles, Gantt currently resides in Chico. He and his wife of 36 years, Ileana, a Spanish instructor at Butte College in Oroville, have two children, Erin and David, and one grandchild, Madison Marie.

### ***The Master Plan Then and Now: What was the Original Donahoe Act of 1960? What has it Become Today?***

**Joe Kiskis** is the Vice President for External Relations at the Council of UC Faculty Associations and has served in many Academic Senate positions that deal with University policy including Chair of the University Committee on Educational Policy in 2004-2005. Joe is a Professor of Physics Emeritus at UC Davis. His research specialty is theoretical high energy physics, which strives to understand the structure matter and the forces by which it interacts at the highest energies and shortest subatomic distances.

**Richard Hansen** is president of the California Community College Independents (CCCI), a confederation of the independent community college faculty unions in the state. He is also president of his local Faculty Association, serving the faculty of the colleges in the Foothill-De Anza Community College District.

California higher education policy has been a focal point for Rich since he was elected to the governing board of the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges (FACCC) in 1998. He was president of FACCC from 2002 to 2005 and is currently FACCC's treasurer.

While he now teaches mathematics at De Anza College, Rich spent a decade in Los Angeles as a union printer, working the swing shift and spending his mornings and weekends as a freelance print and radio journalist. He also spent four years teaching mathematics, history, and yearbook production at Crenshaw High School where he was also a UTLA union representative.

Rich completed his Bachelor's degree from Cornell University and has earned two Master's degrees: History at Cal State LA and Mathematics at UC Berkeley.

**Stanton A. Glantz** is President of the Council of University of California Faculty Associations. He was Chair of the University of California Systemwide Committee on Planning and Budget (2005-6) where he shepherded the "Report on Current Budget Trends and The Future of the University of California." He is also the author of the Keep California's Promise annual "Financial Options for Restoring Quality and Access to Public Higher Education in California." Glantz is a Professor of Medicine in the Division of Cardiology, the American Legacy Foundation Distinguished Professor of Tobacco Control, and director of the Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education at the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine, where his research has focused on the health effects of tobacco smoking. He is the author of several books, including *The Cigarette Papers*, and *Tobacco Wars: Inside the California Battles*, and over 300 scientific papers. He is a member of the California State Scientific Review Panel on Toxic Air Contaminants, and he was elected to the Institute of Medicine in 2005.

**Joseph Palermo** is a Professor of History at California State University, Sacramento. Professor Palermo writes regularly for the Huffington Post on higher education and other topics, including higher education financing issues. His most recent book is *The Eighties* (Pearson 2013). He has also written two other books: *In His Own Right: The Political Odyssey of Senator Robert F. Kennedy* (Columbia, 2001); and *Robert F. Kennedy and the Death of American Idealism* (Pearson, 2008). Before earning a Master's degree and Doctorate in History from Cornell University, Professor Palermo completed Bachelor's degrees in Sociology and Anthropology from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and a Master's degree in History from San Jose State University.

**Dahlia Saleem** is a Computer Science major at Foothill College. She was born and raised in Egypt, and moved to the United States roughly four years ago. Dahlia serves on the SSCCC as the board Secretary as well as the Region IV External Affairs Senator. Dahlia helped re-activate many colleges within her region by conducting regular visits to their campuses and helping interested student leaders get involved in the SSCCC. One of Dahlia's goals is to help educate and encourage students to practice their rights as leaders within their colleges and community. Dahlia can fluently speak Arabic and English and works at a startup company in the Bay Area.

**Guillermo Rogel** is the Statewide Board Chair of the University of California Student Association. Guillermo is a fourth year undergraduate studying Politics and International Relations at the University of California Santa Cruz. As Chair for the UCSA Board of Directors, his role is to facilitate the internal operations of the organization and facilitate the monthly board meetings for the board. He works alongside the President and Executive Director to help execute directives that are mandated by the board.

### **Competing Interests: Funding Public Higher Education Along with Other Societal Needs**

**Abenicio Cisneros** is a staff attorney and union representative for Teamsters Local 2010. He is a graduate of UC Davis School of Law.

**Chris Hoene** became the California Budget and Policy Center executive director in October 2012. He leads the strategic direction of the organization, acts as primary spokesperson, and works with the board of directors and community partners to implement the Center's vision and mission.

Prior to joining the Budget Center, Chris was director of the Center for Research and Innovation at the National League of Cities in Washington, DC, leading efforts to analyze trends in local and state government and promote constructive policy action on issues including public finance, economic development, housing, poverty reduction, infrastructure, and

governance. Chris also previously worked for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in Washington, DC, and the Public Policy Institute of California in San Francisco.

Chris holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Claremont Graduate University and a bachelor's degree in Political Science of the College of Idaho. In 2011, in recognition of his service to the state and local community, Chris was elected as a Fellow into the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA).

**Lenny Goldberg** is executive director of the California Tax Reform Association (CTRA) and was for many years a public interest lobbyist with his own firm, Lenny Goldberg and Associates. Through CTRA, he has been involved with major tax legislation in California for the past 30 years, has directed and worked on a number of statewide tax and fiscal initiative campaigns, and has been member of various commissions and advisory boards on tax policy, including the state's Franchise Tax Board and Board of Equalization.

In addition, Lenny has published regularly on tax policy for 12 years as a correspondent for State Tax Notes and in a number of other publications. He has been a leading advocate for reform of Proposition 13, about which he has researched and written extensively. He is on the board of Citizens for Tax Justice, Washington, DC.

As a public interest consultant and lobbyist, he has also been involved with energy, consumer, privacy, housing, and human services issues over the last 25 years. Lenny was recently named in a survey of legislators and staff as "most effective liberal crusader." He has taught at UC Berkeley, San Francisco State, and USC Sacramento and has degrees in economics from Williams College and UC Berkeley.

**Jonathan Lightman** was selected as executive director of both the 11,000 member Faculty Association of California Community Colleges (FACCC) and the FACCC Education Institute (EI) in 1999. As FACCC's senior lobbyist, Jonathan focuses his advocacy work on the State Budget, federal legislation, and regulatory matters.

Prior to joining FACCC, Jonathan served as director of government relations and political affairs for the National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter. In that capacity, he mobilized 1,000 social workers in the "Social Work '96" campaign to participate in the 1996 elections.

Shortly after becoming FACCC's executive director, Jonathan had to jump to the defense of California's Master Plan for Higher Education during the 2002 reform effort led by State Senator Dede Alpert (D-San Diego). He also worked closely with Assembly Member Ira Ruskin while he chaired the committee reviewing the Master Plan in 2010.

Jonathan received his Bachelor of Arts in Politics from Brandeis University in 1983. He received his Juris Doctor from the University of Southern California School of Law in 1986, and in 2002, Jonathan successfully joined the ranks of the Certified Association Executives (CAE) by passing the certification exam in association management from the American Society of Association Executives.

### ***Student Perspectives/Student Concerns***

**Congressman Eric Swalwell** proudly represents California's Fifteenth Congressional District, which includes a large portion of the East Bay. In January 2015, he was sworn in for his second term in the U.S. House of Representatives, continuing his work to bring new energy, ideas, and a problem-solving spirit to Congress and advance policies that will support equality, opportunity, and security.

Congressman Swalwell serves on the House Committee on Intelligence, where he is the top Democrat on the Subcommittee on the CIA, and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. In his first term two of his bills were signed into law, including the Philippines Charitable Giving Assistance Act. Congressman Swalwell was raised in Dublin. He received his bachelors and law degrees from University of Maryland.

Representative Swalwell is a part of the Future Forum, a group of 16 young Democratic Members of Congress focused on issues and opportunities important to millennial Americans. They are crowdsourcing a millennial-focused legislative package that will address issues like student debt and declining homeownership and entrepreneurship among

millennials. Members of the Future Forum have been travelling around the country holding these discussions at universities and colleges, coworking spaces, and conventions.

**Edward Chavez** Graduated from Laney College in Oakland, California with Associate Degrees in Language Arts and Social Sciences. Currently attends San Francisco State University. Majoring in Urban Studies and Planning, minoring in Critical Social Thought. Organizer with the Student Union of San Francisco and student intern for the California Faculty Association. Also serves as Representative for the College of Health and Social Sciences on the SF State Associated Students Board of Directors. Originally from the San Gabriel Valley region of Los Angeles County, moved to the Bay Area in 2011.

**Shanell Williams** is a full time Urban Studies transfer student at City College of San Francisco (CCSF) and student organizer with the Student Labor Action Project (SLAP). In addition to her work with SLAP at CCSF, she has served as Associated Students Council President, Student Trustee and was Communications Officer for the Student Senate for California Community Colleges. She has been a prominent student leader in California at the forefront of the fight to save CCSF from closure by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges. As a leader with SLAP she has organized student workers at CCSF to win the minimum wage increase from \$9 to \$10.74 an hour. She has traveled nationally as a spokesperson on education justice issues such as the student debt crisis and the privatization of higher education.

**Harvey Gunderman** started taking classes at Lake Tahoe Community College in January 2010 because he had become interested in the local student government. He worked with the Reclaim CA Higher Education coalition last year for our lobby day, representing the Students of Lake Tahoe Community College as the Student Senate President of LTCC. Now he is the Chair of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges Region II and the Vice Chair of the Region Leaders Council. He is a theoretical physics student at American River College starting this year. He has been involved in student leadership for 5 years and has participated in: master planning, vision planning, bond prep and advocacy, student discipline, community outreach, and state advocacy.

**Iman Sylvain** is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Plant and Microbial Biology at UC Berkeley. Iman conducts participatory action-oriented research with residents living in public housing projects contaminated with mold. Iman is currently serving her second term as the External Affairs Vice President of the Graduate Assembly. As the chair of the External Affairs Committee and Staff, Iman hopes to inspire more graduate students to advocate on their own behalf to university administration and the Legislature, and to engage in progressive activism. Iman is the University Affairs Chair of the UC Student Association (UCSA), and formerly chaired the UCSA Graduate/Professional Student Committee. Iman believes in student power and the impact of collective non-violent civil disobedience. Iman is particularly committed to improving campus climate by advocating for programs and policies that make the UC a more inclusive and welcoming environment for students with diverse intersectional identities.

**Isabel Escobar** – Luther Burbank High School Law and Social Justice Academy

### ***Elected Representatives: What Do the Legislative Champions for Public Higher Education Envision?***

**Estevan Santana** is from Ohio, where he completed his PhD in Microbiology at The Ohio State University. Seeking to shift his career focus from laboratory research to science policy, he applied for and was accepted into the Science and Technology Policy Fellowship hosted by the California Council on Science Technology. During his fellowship, Estevan focused on science policy issues as well as additional policy issues including higher education. The fellowship placement was in the office of Assemblywoman Susan A. Bonilla. Assemblywoman Bonilla represents Assembly District 14, which comprises the East Bay communities in portions of Contra Costa and Solano counties. Assemblywoman Bonilla is an English teacher and a strong advocate for K-12 and higher education.

**Alejandra Duran** is a Legislative Aide in Assemblymember Tony Thurmond's office. Born and raised in the California's Central Valley she is the daughter of Mexican immigrants and the first in her family to graduate from college. She received a dual Bachelor's Degree from the University of California, Davis in Political Science Public Service and

Spanish. Alejandra has been in the Capitol since 2013, where she started as an intern right after college with the office of Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi and then went on to work for the Assembly Chief Clerk. She has been with Assemblyman Thurmond since December 2014 and serves as his primary education staffer. Mr. Thurmond represents the 15th Assembly District, which includes the cities of Richmond, Berkeley, and North Oakland. His priority issues include education, environment, housing, and health, issues he has been working on since he served as a school board member and non-profit leader.

**Victor Costa** is a Political Science student at City College of San Francisco. Victor is originally from the Central Valley, born and raised in the city of Turlock. Victor started his education at Modesto Junior College, where he switched from a Chemistry major to Political Science and found his passion after taking a Constitutional Rights of Americans course. Victor immediately took the opportunity to join the student government, the Associated Students of Modesto Junior College, in addition to several clubs on campus. Victor started attending demonstrations, rallies, and protests in response to state budget cuts, which led to his attendance of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges General Assembly. He currently serves as its President.

**Kevin Sabo** is the President of the University of California Student Association. Kevin is no stranger to statewide student advocacy, having served two terms as Vice President of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges prior to transferring to the UC. Kevin also served as the 2014-2015 Chair of the UCSA Board of Directors, prioritizing increasing Board meeting transparency, modernizing governing documents, and bringing non-member associations back to the table. As President, Kevin serves as the official spokesperson of UCSA responsible for external relations with university administration, state and federal elected representatives, and the media. Kevin is a fourth year student at Berkeley majoring in Peace and Conflict Studies with a concentration in National Politics, International Institutions, and World Order.

### ***Closing Remarks***

**Jelger Kalmijn** has been the President of the University Professional and Technical Employees Local 9119 for the past 18 years. UPTE-CWA 9119 is the union of technical and professional employees at the University of California. There are more than 12,000 UC employees covered by UPTE contracts.

UPTE was founded in 1990 by a group of employees who believed that UC workers would benefit by having a union to safeguard and expand our rights in the workplace. There are UPTE locals at all campuses and medical centers of the University of California. In 1993, UPTE members voted to affiliate with the Communications Workers of America (CWA), a 700,000 member union in the AFL-CIO, in order to better organize and represent UC workers.

In November 1994, over 4,000 UC technical employees were the first to vote for UPTE representation. In 1996, 5,000 research professionals voted for UPTE, and in September of 1997, 2,000 UC health care professionals followed suit. All three groups elected bargaining committees and negotiated enforceable contracts with UC.

There are other large groups of UC employees working through UPTE to gain a voice for themselves on the job. Union activists among UC's 14,000 staff professionals—including Student Affairs Officers, Analysts, Programmers and many others—work with UPTE to address problems such as a flawed merit pay system and increasing workloads. UC employees at Los Alamos National Lab in New Mexico have built an UPTE chapter.

In 2007, the Society of Professionals, Scientists and Engineers at Lawrence Livermore National Lab, became a chapter of UPTE, and is working with staff at Lawrence Berkeley and Los Alamos Labs to make sure UC employees at DOE facilities are represented. UPTE proudly represents the contingent faculty at the Community Colleges of Butte, Mt. San Jacinto, and College of the Sequoias.