



CALIFORNIA CAREER PATHWAYS TRUST

FALL 2015 PROJECT DIRECTORS SUMMIT

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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Lupita Cortez Alcalá is the Deputy Superintendent of Instruction and Learning Support for Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson. In this capacity, Ms. Alcalá represents the Superintendent in the program areas of English/language arts, history, visual & performing arts, physical education, teacher support, support for English learners and migrant students, curriculum and instructional resources, early childhood programs, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, high school initiatives and career technical education.

Ms. Alcalá is a graduate of Harvard University's School of Education earning a Master's degree in Planning Administration and Social Policy. Ms. Alcalá earned her bachelor's degree from the University of California, San Diego, majoring in Political Science and minoring in Spanish Literature. She has over 16 years of experience in education, including Government Affairs for K-12 and Higher Education. Ms. Alcalá was formerly the Deputy Superintendent of Government Affairs and Charter Development and was responsible for the administration of all departmental activities relating to state and federal legislation and funding as well as providing guidance and support for the development and oversight of high quality charter schools.

Prior to joining the California Department of Education, Governor Davis appointed Ms. Alcalá as his deputy legislative secretary. In that capacity, she advised the Governor on all Kindergarten through grade 12 and higher education legislation and served as a liaison to the education community.

Katie Barr is the Director of the Northern California Career Pathway Alliance, a six county alliance focused on fostering economic and workforce development to benefit students, employers and community.

Katie began her career as a middle and high school teacher with an emphasis on project-based learning and relevant classroom experiences. Through her teaching experiences, she discovered the need for systems' change to ensure all students were prepared for postsecondary education and the workforce.

With this focus in mind, Katie left the classroom to become the Executive Director of the Patrick McCurdy Education Foundation, a non-profit that works with the rural school districts in Lane

County, Oregon developing mentoring programs and family assistance centers on the school campuses.

In 2011 Katie returned to California to run Tomorrow's Leaders Today, a non-profit working with high schools to develop college and career readiness programs.

Katie has a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from San Francisco State University, and an Administrative Credential through the University of Oregon. She lives in Santa Rosa, California with her two boys and husband.

Matthew Hilton is a 17-year-old Senior at Antioch High School in Antioch, California. He is a part of the "Engineering and Design for a Green Environment" (E.D.G.E) Academy, a Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Linked-Learning academy. He is an outstanding student, currently maintaining a 3.95 GPA with very rigorous College Preparatory and Advanced Placement courses. Due to his academic excellence and his advanced problem solving abilities, Matthew was selected as a member of a team that represented Antioch High School in the 2014 PLTW Engineering Design Challenge.

Matthew is an accomplished athlete and musician. He plays Second Base for Antioch Babe Ruth and was a Goalkeeper for the Delta Youth Soccer League. He volunteers his time as an assistant youth baseball coach and is an umpire for Delta Baseball & Softball League. A former Drum Major for the award winning Antioch High School Marching Band, Matthew is an accomplished Sousaphone and Trumpet player. He is currently teaching himself how to play Piano, Guitar, and Trombone.

After a rigorous interview and selection process, Matthew was one of five students chosen from Antioch High School to participate in a summer internship with Verizon Wireless at their Walnut Creek, California business office. Working under the direction of Gennie Barr, Matthew was directly responsible for managing a team of engineers at the facility and ensuring each team member achieved their daily objectives. To accomplish his assigned tasks, Matthew learned several new software platforms and database solutions utilized by Verizon to optimize and manage their technology and their business solutions.

Upon graduating high school, Matthew plans to pursue a degree in Computer Engineering at a UC or CSU campus. Matthew career goal is to one day work with a major technology company such as Intel or AMD. Ultimately, Matthew wants to be a part of the developmental team for new microchip technology geared towards the consumer market.

Dr. Debra Jones is the Director of Workforce and Adult Education for the California Community Colleges, the nation's largest system of higher education. Dr. Jones oversees the administration of more than \$750 million dollars of state and federal funding that supports the career education mission across California's 113 community colleges. She is a recognized leader and strategic change agent in workforce development and career education.

Dr. Jones coauthored the report *The Return on Investment from Adult Education and Training: Measuring the Economic Impact of a Better Educated and Trained U.S. Workforce*. The report addresses the current budget pressure at both state and federal levels, and argues that cutting education, in particular adult education and training, will result in increased costs to society later in areas such as health care, welfare, and corrections.

Dr. Jones served five years as state director of adult education prior to her tenure at the Chancellor's Office. Under her leadership the State developed the strategic plan *Linking Adults to Opportunity: Transformation of the California Adult Education Program*. The plan sets the stage for developing the statewide collaborations and a regional approach needed to maximize the state's return on its investment in adult education. Debra's current work with the California community Colleges Chancellor's Office to collaboratively design a framework to serve adults is inspired by her belief that education and training builds strong communities and provides a solution to today's economic and educational crisis.

Dr. Jones is a frequent public speaker and has represented the California Community College System to state, national, and international delegations. She has testified before the California Assembly Committees on Finance and Higher Education. Additionally, Dr. Jones serves on Boards and Advisory Committees related to economic development, pathways, and educational success. Dr. Jones received her Doctorate of Education in organizational leadership from University of La Verne.

Beth Kay is part of the Workforce Development team of The Foundation. Her role is to foster collaboration among the K-12 districts and community colleges that are in partnership to develop structured industry aligned pathways. Her experience working with Linked Learning districts across the state has informed her work to increase access, opportunity and completion of work-based learning experiences through the K-14/16 pathways.

Beth was the Regional Director, West for the National Academy Foundation (NAF) from 2012-2014, where she deployed a team of experts to support the development and improvement of approximately 100 NAF Academies throughout the western states. Through NAF academies, young people gain access to industry-specific curricula, compensated internships, and relationships with business professionals.

Ms Kay previously worked within NAF as an Academy Development Manager for California and the Director of Operations for Charter Schools Development Center in California. From 2002-2007 Ms Kay served Sacramento City Unified School District as the founding principal of The Met Sacramento, an innovative small school, part of the Big Picture Learning network.

Prior to 2002, Ms Kay was a high school science teacher and administrator in Massachusetts for nine years. She is a former Peace Corps Volunteer who served in Benin, West Africa.

Ms. Kay is a graduate of The University of Chicago and Harvard University Graduate School of Education.

Rebecca Lacocque is the Director of the East Bay Career Pathways Consortium at Peralta Community College District Office. In this role, Ms. Lacocque leads the \$15 million California Department of Education educational reform initiative. As one of the core designers of the California Career Pathways Trust application, Ms. Lacocque brings deep career pathways expertise. Ms. Lacocque started her career in education, first as an English teacher in a Career Pathway and then as a Pathway Lead. With a vision for *equity and access to high-quality career pathways* in the East Bay, Ms. Lacocque served as a Linked Learning Pathway Coach for Oakland Unified School District. Ms. Lacocque also led San Lorenzo Unified School District in its transition to Pathways, including winning participation for the District in the AB790 initiative.

Senator Mike McGuire is a third generation Northern Californian, whose family farmed prunes and grapes in the Alexander Valley for nearly a half century. Raised by his mom and grandma, Mike worked his way through high school and college and enjoyed a career in the radio and television industries.

Mike was first elected to the Healdsburg School Board when he was 19. As one of Northern California's youngest school board presidents, he led successful efforts to rebuild local decaying schools.

In 2004, Mike was elected to the Healdsburg City Council where he was the city's youngest mayor and was instrumental in creating one of the most successful local economies and stable municipal budgets in the region.

In 2010, Mike was elected to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. He has been a tireless advocate for our environment, and helped lead efforts that turned years of deficits into a multi-million dollar surplus and made Sonoma County one of top counties in job growth in California.

Mike has always been a tireless advocate for our environment. He has helped protect and preserve tens of tens of thousands of acres of open space, watersheds and coast and he successfully fought to keep our regional and state parks open to the public.

Mike was sworn into office on December 1st, 2014, and represents the Second Senate District, which stretches from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Oregon Border. The district includes Del Norte, Trinity, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin counties.

Mike attended Santa Rosa Junior College and graduated from Sonoma State University. He is married to local high school teacher and middle school assistant-principal, Erika McGuire. Erika and Mike live in Healdsburg.

Sara Minnehan is the Foundation & Community Relations Director for Aerojet Rocketdyne. Aerojet Rocketdyne is a technology-based manufacturer of aerospace and defense products and systems.

Sara joined Aerojet Rocketdyne in 2003. Prior to her current role, she spent several years in Aerojet Rocketdyne's human resources department as an employee relations specialist and community engagement manager.

As Foundation & Community Relations Director, Sara oversees all of the company's community outreach programs including the employee giving campaign, volunteer program, programs serving veterans and military families, and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) outreach programs across the enterprise. Additionally, Sara oversees the Aerojet Rocketdyne Foundation. The Aerojet Rocketdyne Foundation's major area of grantmaking is education with an emphasis in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). While the Aerojet Rocketdyne Foundation makes grants in the Sacramento region, it also makes grants in 14 communities across the country where the company has a business presence. Since 2000, the Aerojet Rocketdyne Foundation has contributed more than \$13 million in those communities.

Sara has more than 19 years of human resources and community relations experience. Her background includes employee benefits, HR systems and labor and employee relations with several high-tech organizations.

She holds a B.S. degree in Business Administration from the University of Arizona, and is a graduate of the Leadership Sacramento Class of 2011. She is certified as a Senior Professional in Human Resources. She is currently a member of the board of directors for Crossroads Diversified Services and Soil Born Farms.

Sara lives in Folsom with her husband, Justin and her daughter, Kaitlyn. In her spare time she enjoys running, hiking, travelling, supporting her community and entertaining friends and family.

Joe Radding is currently the Administrator of College Preparation and Postsecondary Programs at the California Department of Education. Since January 2014, Dr. Radding has managed the California Career Pathways Trust, a \$500 million grant program that invests in the establishment and expansion of sustainable career pathways to prepare students for high-skill, high-wage careers in high-growth economic sectors. Dr. Radding has also served in adjunct faculty roles at Drexel University and in the Los Rios Community College District. Dr. Radding holds a Doctor of Education degree in Educational Leadership from the University of California, Davis.

Tim Rainey is the Executive Director of the California Workforce Investment Board, having been appointed by Governor Brown in, 2011. As required by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, the State Board is responsible for assisting the Governor in the development, oversight, and continuous improvement of California's workforce investment system. Previously, Mr. Rainey was the Director of the Workforce and Economic Development Program (WED) of the California Labor Federation, where he was responsible for policy development at the State and local levels and brokering industry-based training partnerships among unions, employers, community organizations, education, and public workforce agencies.

Mr. Rainey was also the Policy Director for the California Workforce Association (CWA) where he advocated on behalf of local workforce investment boards in legislative, policy, and administrative deliberations in Sacramento and Washington DC.

Prior to joining CWA, Mr. Rainey was a consultant to the Senate Democratic Caucus of the California State Senate. Mr. Rainey is a co-founder and executive committee member of the EDGE Campaign and serves on several other committees and commissions related to workforce and economic development. He holds a B.A. degree in Government from California State University, Sacramento.

Jayne E. Smith, PhD is the director of school support services for John Muir Charter Schools. This division includes the Career Pathways, Counseling Services, and Data and Assessment programs. For over a decade, Dr. Smith has worked with transitional-aged youth in a variety of school settings. She is an advocate for re-engaged students, access to culturally responsive mental health and career counseling services, and school choice. She is published, maintains a research agenda, and holds a license in professional clinical counseling and certification in the Strong Interest Inventory.

Louise Stymeist is the Program Manager for Capital Region Academies for the Next Economy (CRANE) a regional consortium of 22 school districts.

Alex Taghavian, who joined Capitol Impact in 2013, has 15 years of education leadership and teaching experience, and has extensive expertise in economic and workforce development policy. Prior to joining Capitol Impact, Taghavian served in academic management roles for public and private universities, including as an adjunct professor at Sacramento State teaching scholarly writing and research methodologies. Taghavian serves on the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation Roundtable on Work-Based Learning, on the board of directors of the Los Rios Community College District Foundation, the Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce, and NextEd. Taghavian is also a past chair of Cap to Cap, the Sacramento Metro Chamber's annual federal advocacy program. At Capitol Impact, Taghavian leads strategy on effective engagement and collaboration between employers and leaders in education. He is vice president of the Linked Learning Alliance, and manages development and implementation of technology-related projects, including LaunchPath, a platform for connecting students prepared for internships with employers. Taghavian holds a bachelor degree from Cal Poly San Luis

Obispo, a master degree from Sacramento State, and a doctor of education from Drexel University. He received the Leadership and Service Award from the School of Education at Drexel University and was selected as a winner in the Sacramento Business Journal 40 Under 40 award.

Gabriela Vargas is a senior at the School of Engineering and Sciences. For the past 5 years, Vargas has learned the ins and outs of the designing and manufacturing process through her school's curriculum and participation in the school's robotics program. Engineering has become her sole focus, and she hopes one day to become a mechanical engineer and eventually an educator. As FRC captain and FLL coach, the importance of STEM education has become very apparent to her, and she realizes that preparing the future workforce is key to our country's success.

After being linked through a company called Launchpath, Vargas was given the opportunity to become the first high school intern in Aerojet Rocketdyne company history. There, Vargas had the opportunity to meet a variety of mentors from all different departments and obtain a genuine feel of the life of an engineer.

Russell Weikle serves as Director of the Career and College Transition Division at the California Department of Education (CDE). He oversees secondary education, college preparation and postsecondary relations, career and technical education (CTE), adult education, and workforce preparation programs. Mr. Weikle also works at the federal level designated as the California State Director of CTE.

Mr. Weikle joined the CDE in 2001 and was the catalyst in the development and implementation of the 2008 State Plan for CTE. He led the effort to revise the CTE Model Curriculum Standards. Currently, Mr. Weikle is implementing the California Career Pathways Trust, a 500 million dollar competitive grant for the development of regional career pathways.

Prior to joining the CDE, Mr. Weikle served over twenty years as a CTE teacher, middle school principal, high school counselor, and administrator.

Dr. Sean K Wright is the owner of The Wright Start Chiropractic in Antioch, CA, the CEO of the Antioch Chamber of Commerce, and the Executive Director of The East County Business Education Alliance. As an industry partner with the Antioch Unified School District he has participated on the leadership team with the district for the past five years. His goal is to create a volunteer army of industry partners to give every student Work Based Learning Opportunities.