



OUR EXPERT
ADVISORY
COUNCIL





DR. KEITH
CURRY
CHAIR

Dr. Keith Curry is the President of the Compton College and CEO of the Compton Community College District. Compton College is the 114th California Community College, achieving initial accreditation status on June 7, 2017. Dr. Curry is responsible for overseeing all departments and functions of Compton College and the District and serves as secretary for the CCCD Board of Trustees. He brings an abundance of energy and innovative ideas to Compton College, along with a wealth of experience as a postsecondary education administrator.

Dr. Curry is an active member of the Foundation for Compton Community College District, the Association of California Community College Administrators, the California Community College Athletic Association, the Statewide Association of Community Colleges (SWACC), the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice Advisory Board, and the President’s Roundtable. He has participated on Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) Visiting Teams, most recently for San Quentin University Prison Project.

In 2018, Dr. Curry received the Harry Buttimer Distinguished Administrator Award. The Association of California Community College Administrators bestows the award to administrators who demonstrate integrity, principle, compassion, strength in leadership, and who have made significant contributions to the college district and community.

At the 2019 Community College League of California Annual Conference, Dr. Curry was honored as one of three 2019 Champions of Equity by the Campaign for College Opportunity and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational fund. The award honors those who prioritize student-centered policies that produce equitable outcomes and expand opportunities for Californians.

In June 2020, Dr. Curry was invited by Governor Newsom’s Senior Policy Advisor for Higher Education Lande Ajose to serve on the California Higher Education Recovery with Equity Task Force.

Dr. Curry earned his doctorate in educational leadership from the University of California, Irvine, and a bachelor’s degree in American studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Dr. Curry is an adjunct faculty member for the Charter College of Education at California State University, Los Angeles.



DR. DOMINIQUE
BAKER

Dr. Dominique Baker is an Associate Professor of Education Policy in the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development at Southern Methodist University (SMU). Her research focuses on the way that education policy affects and shapes the access and success of underrepresented students in higher education. She primarily investigates student financial aid, affirmative action, and policies that influence the ability to create an inclusive and equitable campus climate. She is the 2021 Association for Education Finance & Policy Early Career Award winner, in recognition of the impact and promise of her scholarly career.

Her research has been published in a variety of journals, including the American Educational Research Journal, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, the Journal of Higher Education, the Journal of College Student Development, and Teachers College Record. Dr. Baker has testified before the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs’ Subcommittee on Economic Policy on race, racism, and student loans. Her work and expertise have been highlighted by the Atlantic, the New York Times, the Washington Post, National Public Radio, the Chronicle of Higher Education, and Inside Higher Ed, among others.

Dr. Baker earned her Ph.D. in Higher Education Leadership and Policy Studies (education policy) from Peabody College at Vanderbilt University. She earned her M.Ed. in Student Affairs Practice in Higher Education and B.A. in Psychology from the University of Virginia. Prior to pursuing her Ph.D., she served as an Assistant Dean in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at the University of Virginia. At SMU, she teaches public policy and policy analysis courses at the doctoral level and equity and access courses at the master’s level.



DR. EDWARD
BUSH

Dr. Edward Bush began his role as the president at Cosumnes River College on July 1, 2015. Dr. Bush came to the college from southern California where he served as the Vice President of Student Services for Riverside City College. He has more than 20 years of experience in higher education with 15 of those years at the Riverside Community College District. He has served as an associate faculty member in student activities, Director of the Educational Talent Search federal TRIO grant, and Dean of Student Services.

Dr. Bush received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from University of California, Riverside, a master’s degree in Public Administration from California State University, San Bernardino, and his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Claremont Graduate University.



DR. CHARLENE
DUKES

Dr. Charlene Dickens Dukes served Prince George's Community College (PGCC) as president from July 1, 2007 to August 10, 2020. Upon retirement, she received the title of "President Emerita" for her 13 years of service. During her presidency at PGCC, enrollment surged to 44,000 students and 2800 employees, served by six locations. Her career spanned 42 years, beginning as an admission and financial aid officer at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, continuing at the Community College of Allegheny County in a variety of administrative positions, including dean of Students, and concluding at Prince George's Community College where she held the position of vice president of Student Services immediately prior to accepting the presidency. Dr. Dukes also served as interim president at Montgomery College in Rockville, Maryland from August 2021 to February 2022.

Her many associations include chair of the Board of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC); member, Executive Committee of AACC and the Association of Community College Trustees; founding faculty of the Leadership Institute of the National Council on Student Development; board member of the American Association of Colleges and Universities; committee service for the American Council on Education; convener of the Presidents Round Table for African-American CEOs in Community Colleges; member of the National Council on Black American Affairs, AACC; chair of the Maryland Community College Council of Presidents; and board service for the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators; Board secretary of the Institute of Higher Education Policy.

Dr. Dukes is the founder and principal of The Dukes Group LLC, specializing in board development, executive coaching and mentoring, strategy and planning, equity and inclusion, and advocacy. She consults with numerous associations and has taught in the community college doctoral programs at Morgan State University, the University of Maryland Global Campus, and North Carolina State University. She received an undergraduate degree in Secondary Education with an English Concentration from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a master's and doctoral degree in Administrative and Policy Studies from the University of Pittsburgh.



DR. EBONI ZAMANI-
GALLAHER

Dr. Eboni M. Zamani-Gallaher is Associate Dean for Equity, Justice, and Strategic Partnerships at the University of Pittsburgh. She previously served as the Director of the Office for Community College Research and Leadership (OCCRL) and as Associate Head of the Department of Education Policy, Organization, and Leadership and Associate Dean of the Graduate College at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Dr. Zamani-Gallaher is a recipient of the Council for the Study of Community Colleges (CSCC) Senior Scholar Award (2017), is an American College Personnel Association (ACPA) Senior Scholar (2018) and ACPA Diamond Honoree (2017), as well as the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) Council on Ethnic Participation (CEP) Founder's Service Award recipient (2018) and the ASHE-CEP Mildred B. Garcia Senior Exemplary Scholarship Awardee (2009). In 2019, Dr. Zamani-Gallaher was recognized by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) as the recipient of the Community College Research Award and honored by the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students (NISTS) with the Transfer Catalyst Award. Dr. Zamani-Gallaher served as President of the Council for the Study of Community Colleges (CSCC) an affiliate of the American Association of Community Colleges (2013-2014) and was Director for Research and Scholarship for ACPA (2015-2017).

Dr. Zamani-Gallaher holds a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration with a specialization in Community College Leadership and Educational Evaluation from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her teaching, research, and consulting activities largely include psychosocial adjustment and transition of marginalized collegians, transfer, access policies, student development and services at community colleges.



CHERYL
HYMAN

Cheryl Hyman is Vice Provost for Academic Alliances at Arizona State University (ASU) where she is leading a broad set of activities, including forging academic partnerships between the university and other educational institutions both locally and nationally, ensuring that students who wish to pursue an undergraduate degree have the resources and a pathway to successfully transition to ASU. She is also overseeing a project to build out our national scale infrastructure to improve Credit Mobility and solve the National Transfer Problem.

Prior to joining ASU, Hyman served as the Chancellor of the City Colleges of Chicago where her number one priority was student success. There, she was responsible for managing a budget of more than \$700 million, overseeing 5,500 employees, and ensuring the success of more than 100,000 students annually. Appointed by Mayor Richard M. Daley in 2010 and reappointed by Mayor Rahm Emanuel a year later, Hyman was leading the Reinvention of City Colleges in partnership with faculty, staff, students, four-year colleges, and members of the civic and business communities to ensure that students successfully graduate ready for further college and careers. Following her tenure as chancellor, Ms. Hyman authored *Reinvention: The Promise and Challenge of Transforming a Community College System* (Harvard Education Press, 2018).

A Chicago native who grew up on the city's West Side, Cheryl was once a City Colleges student herself: she is a graduate of Olive-Harvey College. She went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science from the Illinois Institute of Technology, a Master of Arts degree in community development with a certification in nonprofit management from North Park University, and an Executive Master of Business Administration from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. Hyman continues to speak nationally about higher education and leadership issues.



DR. ROYEL
JOHNSON

Dr. Royel M. Johnson is Associate Professor of Higher Education with tenure in the Rossier School of Education at the University of Southern California (USC). He is also the inaugural Director of Student Engagement in the USC Race and Equity Center and a faculty affiliate in the Pullias Center for Higher Education. Prior to joining USC, he was on the faculty at Penn State, where he was the inaugural Associate Director of the Center for the Study of Higher Education.

Dr. Johnson is a nationally recognized expert on issues of educational access, racial equity and student success. His work has an unapologetic focus on Black and marginalized populations like those impacted by the criminal punishment, child welfare and inequitable educational systems. He has more than 40 peer-reviewed publications in influential journals such as the *Journal of Higher Education*, *Peabody Journal of Education*, *Teachers College Record* and *Journal of College Student Development*. He has also written research and policy briefs for organizations like the National Education Policy Center, Office of Community College Research and Leadership and NASPA–Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education.

Dr. Johnson is a two-time graduate from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he earned a B.A. in Political Science and an Ed.M. in Educational Policy Studies. He earned his Ph.D. in higher education and student affairs, with a cognate in race and social policy, from The Ohio State University.



EDDIE
KOEN

Before his arrival at the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL), **Eddie Koen** served as the President and Chief Executive Officer for the Urban League of Greater Southwest Ohio (ULGSO), one of the largest Urban League affiliates in the country serving Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky, and Dayton, Ohio. He grew the League from 45 to 90 staff members during his tenure, increased the budget from 4.9 to 13 million, and launched the first Center for Social Justice to serve as the regional catalyst for collaborative police reform efforts. ULGSO secured at least one job per day in the region and served 1600 black, brown, & women-owned businesses a year with total revenues of over seven billion and 60 thousand employees. After securing the most significant programmatic personal gift of \$1M, the center expanded to education advocacy and health equity work. The Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio also serves as headquarters to the Small Business Development Center of Hamilton County.

Before this role, he served as the Chief Impact Officer for Mile High United Way, where he directed \$18 million in investment strategies and programming shifting the work towards neighborhoods' needs. Eddie served as the chief-of-staff for Denver Public Schools (DPS), the largest school district in Colorado with a one-billion-dollar budget, where he was charged with overall coordination of policy, lobbying, and strategy. Under Eddie's efforts, DPS eliminated expulsions and drastically reduced suspensions for all students in the district from K-3. He also served as vice-chair of the Board of Trustees for the Denver Foundation (TDF) and chaired their work around racial equity while also serving as a finance committee member.

Eddie received his law degree from Samford University, his Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and his bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa.



DR. CHRISTOPHER
NELLUM

Dr. Christopher J. Nellum is the Executive Director of The Education Trust-West, a nonprofit education equity organization focused on educational justice and closing achievement and opportunity gaps for students of color and students from lower-income communities from preschool through college. Dr. Nellum joined The Education Trust-West in October of 2017 and most recently served as the organization's Deputy Director.

As the Deputy Director of Research and Policy, Dr. Nellum co-led the creation of a three-year strategic plan and deepened the organization's expertise in early childhood education, K-12, and higher education. He has led successful advocacy efforts to ensure equity in the K-12 accountability system, create a statewide cradle-to-career data system, address food insecurity for college students, and ensure that every high school senior completes a financial aid application before they graduate. In addition, Dr. Nellum was the founding co-chair of the California Higher Education Equity Coalition. He has also pushed for local and statewide solutions in response to COVID-19 and the shift to distance learning, expanded the organization's early childhood education profile, and spearheaded educator listening sessions and K-12 parent polls. Dr. Nellum regularly provides commentary for media outlets, including PBS NewsHour, EdSource, The Wall Street Journal, and NBC News.

Before joining The Education Trust-West, Dr. Nellum was at the National Center for Institutional Diversity, Young Invincibles, and the American Council on Education. He cut his teeth in education equity on college campuses working directly with students. Dr. Nellum completed his undergraduate degree at UC Santa Barbara, master's degree at CSU Long Beach, and Ph.D. at the University of Michigan. He mentors young Black and Latinx students through his volunteer work with college access programs like Berkeley Community Scholars. Dr. Nellum serves on the Student Centered Funding Formula Oversight Committee as a gubernatorial appointee and the Cradle-to-Career Data System Policy and Analytics Advisory Group. He is also an adjunct professor of education and recently taught at the University of San Francisco, UC Davis, and the University of San Diego.



DR. KARA
TURNER

Dr. Kara Turner is Morgan State University's inaugural Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Success. At Morgan, Dr. Turner provides strategic leadership to the University's enrollment management efforts, including overseeing eight student services offices. Under her leadership, the University has experienced sustained increases in first-to-second-year retention rates and new student enrollment, and a more than ten percentage point decrease in the federal loan cohort default rate. Additionally, numerous enhancements to student services have been implemented, including transitioning to centralized first-year advising, implementation of automated early alert and degree auditing systems, and an electronic institutional aid application process. She is currently spearheading the University's 50 by 25 Campaign, to increase the University's six-year graduation rate to 50% by 2025 and leading the University's implementation of a \$716,700 HBCU Student Success Grant from Lumina Foundation.

Dr. Turner's research specialty is African American civil rights and educational history. She is the author of several publications related to these fields, including book chapters, peerreviewed journal articles, book reviews, and encyclopedia entries. She's also given numerous scholarly and public presentations on these topics at national conferences, schools, universities, and community venues. Dr. Turner has a vast array of experience in Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management and is committed to ensuring that students from all socioeconomic backgrounds and all levels of academic preparedness are given the opportunity to obtain a college degree. Dr. Turner earned her B.A. in Political Science and Africana Studies from Rutgers University and her M.A. and Ph.D. in American History from Duke University.