INTRODUCTION

The 2019 Annual Convention of the Community College League of California took place on November 21 – 23, 2019 in Riverside, California. The Host Colleges for the Conference were the Chaffey College, the San Bernardino CCD, and the Riverside CCD.

The Community College League of California is a non-profit association representing 72 local community college districts in California. The League is governed by the League Board of Directors, which is comprised of five representatives from each of the California Community Colleges Trustees Board (CCCT), and the Chief Executive Officers of the California Community Colleges Board (CEOCCC), as well as two representatives from the California Community Colleges Classified Senate (CCCCS). The League serves the districts in six areas: education programs, research and policy analysis, governmental relations, communications, special services, and governance of athletics.

There were a significant number of Trustees in attendance in all the sessions. However, other constituencies were represented in significant numbers of attendees as well.

The Annual Trustees Conference was organized in General Sessions for the entire attendees, and Concurrent Sessions representing specific topics that attendees self-selected. The report will outline the sessions I specifically attended.

CONCURRENT SESSION #1

**Topic:** How to Hire the Best CEO for Your District Utilizing Best Practices for Promoting Cultural Competency, Equity, and Student Success

**Presenter:** Frances White, Senior Search Consultant and Partner, Community College Search Service; Meredith Brown, Trustee, Peralta CCD; Jackie Hang, Associate, and Laura Benson, ESS Consultant, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo

This presentation showed trustees how to hire a CEO that has the skills and experience to provide a welcoming and supportive educational environment for student bodies that reflect the demographics of the California Community Colleges. A handout was provided and filed in the President’s Office.

College and District leaders are mostly male (61.8%) and white (66%). A significant majority are 56 years of age and older. ACCT will be helpful in navigating these issues as well as other challenges facing our institution.

**Application for Ohlone:** It is clear that our Board of Trustees is taking this challenge very seriously. Working with our ACCT Consultant will help to keep our focus squarely on finding finalists that are committed to student success. In addition, the finalists must be committed to equity, taking strategic risks, building strong teams, establishing the urgency for improvement and long-lasting change.
CONCURRENT SESSION #2

**Topic:** The Brown Act: Applying the Rules to Real Life Situations

*Presenter:* Peter Schaffert, Senior Counsel, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo

The Brown Act ensures that the public’s business is conducted openly. New and experienced trustees will find value in this session designed to examine how to correctly apply the Brown Act to specific situations that occur in board meetings. A handout was provided and filed in the President’s Office. There were several scenarios that were discussed, including what is appropriate information to request on a Public Comment Card; how items can be added to the Agenda by the public; virtual public meetings; handling protesters at a meeting; serial communication amongst Trustees; and using interpreters.

*Application for Ohlone:* The Brown Act has more impact on how meetings are conducted beyond the usual quorum and serial communication issues. The more expert all Trustees can be on the law, the more cohesive the Board-as-a-whole will appear to the public.

CONCURRENT SESSION #3

**Topic:** Town Hall Legal Eagles

*Presenter:* Laura Schulkind, Partner, Eileen O’Hare-Anderson, Partner, Pilar Morin, Partner, and Kristin Lindgren, Associate, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore

Get your questions answered while learning how to deal with legal issues important to your district. Share your questions with others and learn from each other. This is a great opportunity to get some excellent legal answers without those pesky billable hours. There were no handouts in this session.

*Application for Ohlone:* None specifically as this was an open forum to discuss issues raised by attendees.

CONCURRENT SESSION #4

**Topic:** The Board’s Role to Effective Collective Bargaining

*Presenter:* Paul Loya, Partner, Guy Bryant, Partner, and Laura Benson, ESS Consultant, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo

The process of negotiation involves multiple stakeholder groups, each with their own set of interests and influences. At times, the Board can feel caught between a rock and a hard place. A handout was provided and filed in the President’s Office. The session covered different approaches to negotiations and a general background to those Trustees who are new to the entire process of collective bargaining.
**Application for Ohlone:** The information is excellent in representing the interests that come to the bargaining table from both the Administrators (on behalf of the Board of Trustees) and the bargaining units.

**OPENING GENERAL SESSION**

**Topic:** Welcome and State of the League Address

**Presenter:** Larry Galizio, President & CEO, Community College League of California

Keynote Speaker: Eloy Ortiz Oakley, Chancellor, California Community Colleges

Presiding: Joe Wyse, Chair, League Board of Directors Superintendent/President, Shasta College

Shasta-Tehama-Trinity Joint CCD Performance by San Bernardino Valley College’s Choir, Voci Soli with Dance Troupe

Larry opened the session that Trustees were aware of the recent work of the CCLC. The Community College System serves 2.2 million students. The CCLC sponsored Weber bill (AB-612) that attempted to address food insecurities. AB-30 (Holden) simplified Dual Enrollment of high school students. Advocacy and Support partnered with the Chancellor’s Office on the third Undocumented Student Action Week. The CCLC established and supported the Food and Housing Task Force and Master Plan Re-envisioning Work Group. Further, the CCLC developed and led Financial Aid Operations Work Group. Also, they launched Research and Data Center with 4 Interactive Dashboards on Budget Trends, Enrollment Trends, CEO Retention, and District Governance Structure. District Services were discussed. Library Consortium will save Districts $6 million in 2019-2020. The League is also providing a pipeline for CEO development.

Eloy thanked the great work of the Board of Governors, as well as the Academic Senate of the Community College System, the Student Senate, the Faculty Associations that support the work that we do as well as the Classified Staff.

We are not about facilities, but about the students. Their personal stories. This is why we are all here. That’s the perspective Eloy is using as a theme.

There are a record number of awards in the past academic year. More than 142,000 students who earned a college credential – more than any other system in the country. This is a contributor of the economic strength of the state.

There is progress being made in AB-705 implementation of multiple measures without layers of remediation. This is part of the equity agenda. Improving placement, transfer level courses, it is all about equity. It is an opportunity to demonstrate the potential of every student. It is about the students, not the institutions. This has increased the number of students who finish the gateway transfer course. Elevated belief in student capacity: an investment in the students’ preparation, life experience. Dual enrollment has improved in both English and Math in transfer-level courses. Co-requisite support has been much more prevalent in English and Math.
There is also progress in college affordability. Policy-makers are hearing the journey our students are taking. Increased funding for food insecurity – both public and individual. He recognized Compton College and Butte College.

Lastly, there is progress being made in reducing recidivism by educating incarcerated students.

Shared 2020 Priorities for the Vision for Success.

In May, we put out a call throughout the system for proposals for the 2020-2021 state budget. More than 50 submissions came back. Consultation Council weighted in and placed a focus on three key priorities. We need one unified voice in these priorities.

**Priority #1:** Secure full funding for the Student-Centered Funding Formula. Currently, the funding is in decline. Focus on access, on enrollment, on equity and success. It is the basic three components of the SCFF. We need a clear focus on the historic lack of resources in the system. It is lower than CSU and UC.

**Priority #2:** Improving Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Student Success. The student population is more diverse than our workforce.

**Priority #3:** Address the total costs of attendance for our students. The net price for Berkeley City College is higher than Cal State East Bay and UC Berkeley. Push **SB-291** to improve financial aid and student success. It establishes new grant program that eliminates age and GPA requirements, amongst other things.

Keep bringing ourselves back to why we are here. Three students were empaneled to share their stories about affording college, not being homeless, and being able to make it.

*Application for Ohlone:* There is no argument against the overall themes. However, the SCFF needs to continue to be flexed in order to provide Ohlone CCD the recognition it deserves without financial penalty.

**MORNING GENERAL SESSION**

**Topic:** Using the Iloh Model of College-Going Decisions and Trajectories for Institutional Equity and Effectiveness

**Presenter:** Dr. Constance Iloh, Assistant Professor, University of California, Irvine

The Popular College Choice Model is based on stages. Predisposition, Search, and Choice. The problem is that it is sequential in nature. It focuses on college as a one-time event, the ecosystem around the person also seems to take a back seat, that there are changes in the nature of the opportunity, and it situates realities of high school students. Most of the students are beyond high school ages.
We need a new model. Post-traditional students, Non-first-time students and open access to community colleges. Post-traditional students are those over 25, those under 25 who have adult responsibilities, those working part- or full-time. They are also financially independent.

41% are older than 25. 55% are independent financially. 60% work while in college.

Post-traditional and Non-First-Time students present challenges to how they can approach a traditional education.

An estimated 40% of higher education institutions are not meeting financial or institutional goals.

The model proposed is based on three dimensions: Information, Opportunity, and Time. It is a cycle.

Information: Highlights both access and quality of information student’s awareness in making college-based decisions. General information, recommendations, and warnings. Model considers the variability in the type of college information one possesses in their context. In some environments, information deserts, it is difficult to access or find contemporary and general college-going information.

Time: Focuses on social, educational and historical events that may have led to a particular college decision or path. It can account for the student is going to college for the first time. How old is the person, the background of their families?

Opportunity: Situates the perceived and real opportunity any student has in their pursuit of higher education generally and specific institutions in particular. Aspects of one’s identity, life experiences, as well as their familial…

This model is not static. College-going differs from person to person.

Choice is an illusion, it is a privileged term. It offers a limited way of understanding contemporary college-going trajectories.

Information and resources about college are scarce outside the K-12 domain. Where else can information be found? How are you making information available?

How much time has elapsed since the individual last received college information? How many opportunities are available? How many times has the individual enrolled in college?

Have their opportunities increased or decreased over time? How much time has the person spent pursuing college? Does the intent to enroll actually end up in enrollment?

Is the institution accessible? What are the perceptions? What barriers exist to their access and persistence? What is the institutional climate?

Application for Ohlone: These are questions that are being asked now on our campus.
CONCURRENT SESSION #5

**Topic:** Well-Known Secrets for Cultivating a High Performance Organization

**Presenter:** Brian Lofman, Dean of Institutional Planning, Research, and Effectiveness, and Patricia Hsieh, Superintendent/President, Hartnell College; Darla Cooper, Executive Director, RP Group

How might community colleges successfully transition to become high performance organizations as they execute a shared vision for student success? This presentation focused on key organizational drivers impacting student success and consider how Hartnell College is harnessing collaborative efforts to ensure institutional effectiveness. Observations from experiences at other colleges will also be presented. A handout was provided and filed in the President’s Office.

**Application for Ohlone:** As we plan forward, we can keep in mind these key drivers: embodying the characteristics of a caring, learning environment, the strength of a focus on student success, and engaging all employees in achieving this goal.

CONCURRENT SESSION #6

**Topic:** Getting Your College Ready for the 2020 Census

**Presenter:** Laura Murrell, Communications & Marketing Manager, Community College League of California; Kristen Huyck, President, Community College Public Relations Organization (CCPRO) and Director, Public and Governmental Relations, Marketing & Communications, MiraCosta College; Amanda Joy Davis, Project Manager, “I Can Afford College” Campaign, California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office; Mignonne Pollard, Education Outreach Manager, California Complete Count - Census 2020

The 2020 Census begins April 1, 2020! California Community Colleges can play a crucial role in making sure that all Californians are counted, to ensure our fair share of federal funding and members of the House of Representatives. This session outlined ways California Community Colleges can support 2020 Census efforts. A handout was provided and filed in the President’s Office.

**Application for Ohlone:** There are opportunities for Ohlone CCD to sponsor events and workshops to encourage a high-degree of student participation in Census 2020. There are also employment opportunities that could be attractive to students and employees alike. The Board of Trustees may consider drafting and passing a Resolution early in 2020 to support Census 2020.
LUNCHEON AND GENERAL SESSION

**Topic:** *The Future of Leadership in an Exponential World*

**Presenter:** Keynote Speaker: Leith Sharp, Director and Lead Faculty, Executive Education for Sustainability Leadership, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Presiding: Linda Wah, First Vice Chair/Treasurer, League Board of Directors Trustee, Pasadena Area CCD (CCCT)

A rapidly evolving 21st century context brings focus to our shared reality that no organization and no sector can succeed in a failing world. A new leadership paradigm is rapidly emerging in response, positioning sustainability as the ultimate innovation and performance driver for an ever-connected and fast-paced world. In this keynote, Leith shared key insights into this emerging leadership paradigm by drawing from two bodies of work: The 2018-19 CEO Study, a study of 30 CEOs of highly successful global corporations, conducted by Leaders on Purpose, into the future of leadership, business and organizational design. Key insights into the future of leadership derived by mapping the journey of over 2000 purpose-driven ideas, from inception to scale, within higher education, business, government, and NGOs.

*Application for Ohlone:* There is an interesting dynamic between a hierarchical leadership structure and one based on a more fluid model. The combination of the two is what the keynote speaker is advocating CCD’s pursue.

CONCURRENT SESSION #7

**Topic:** *Strategies to Increase CEO and Faculty Diversity*

**Presenter:** Jose Fierro, President/Superintendent, Marisa Perez, Board Vice President, and Valyncia Raphael, Director, Diversity, Compliance, and Title IX Coordinator, Cerritos College; Mayra Cruz, Area B Representative, Academic Senate for California Community Colleges; Linda Vasquez, Senior Public Affairs Director, Campaign for College Opportunity

During this panel session, trustees, CEOs, the Chancellor’s Office, and the State Academic Senate will discuss effective practices to increase diversity hiring and address common challenges faced at their institutions. A handout was provided and filed in the President’s Office.

*Application for Ohlone:* This presentation echoed the same themes as other presentations I heard during this conference. The Board of Trustees is especially sensitive to these challenges.
CONCURRENT SESSION #8

**Topic:** Leading with Civility

*Presenter:* Samia Yaqub, Superintendent/President, and Bill McGinnis, Trustee, Butte-Glenn CCD

Have you ever experienced a board so divided that they are unable to effectively communicate? Or had an extremist public speaker appear before your board and be encouraged by some of the trustees? Difficult issues cannot be resolved if there is no trust or respect, and if all communication is not civil. Effective boards listen and communicate in a civil manner focused on a common goal; typically, student success. This session will help Trustees understand the rules of civil engagement and practice a better method of dealing with explosive issues. A handout was provided and filed in the President’s Office.

*Application for Ohlone:* A good background in parliamentary procedure and a general sense of civility will continue to pay dividends for the Board of Trustees.

CONCURRENT SESSION #9

**Topic:** Giving Students More Than A Seat At The Table

*Presenter:* Lizette Navarette, Vice President, Community College League of California; Alexis Zaragoza, Student Member, California Community Colleges Board of Governors

As educational leaders, we know the student voice matters a lot. Students have valid opinions, knowledge, and experiences that districts and boards can benefit from. More than ever, understanding the student perspective is key to the effective implementation of college-level reforms. Students are already engaged at districts in many ways, from planning committees to goal setting. But how can districts create cultural change which leads to collaborative and lasting student engagement? This session will highlight strategies and ideas to improve the culture of student engagement at districts and colleges.

*Application for Ohlone:* The Board of Trustees must continue to be vigilant in finding a pathway to encourage student engagement within a framework of governance.

CLOSING GENERAL SESSION

**Topic:** A Real Conversation on Homelessness in Higher Education

*Presenter:* Rashida Crutchfield, Associate Professor, California State University, Long Beach; Daisy Beltran, Student, Imperial Valley College; Ruben Canedo, Director, Strategic Equity Initiatives at UC Berkeley; Amy Costa, Member, California Community Colleges Board of Governors;
Moderator: Pam Luster President, San Diego Mesa College

Presiding: Larry Galizio, President & CEO, Community College League of California

This session addressed Homelessness in Higher Education. According to the California Community College #RealCollege Survey Report that was released by the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice at Temple University and the California Community College Chancellor’s Office in March 2019, 19% of the California Community College students are homeless. Are you ready for a real and critical discussion on the state of homelessness among community college students and potential strategies for addressing their needs? Homelessness is an important area of concern for all California Community College constituent groups.

Application for Ohlone: Our District must shine a brighter light on student homelessness and food insecurities. Some steps have been made, but more work could be done.

CONCLUSION

This conference was outstanding, and I encourage other Trustees to attend next year when it will be held at the Hyatt Regency, SFO on November 19-21, 2020.