
AHED DISPATCH

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STATE NEWS

California Community Colleges



- [Sonya Christian named chancellor of California Community Colleges](#) - EdSource.

- [New Bachelor's Degree Programs Get Green Light from the California Community Colleges Board](#) - Chancellor's Office of the CCC.

- [Interim Chancellor Daisy Gonzales Issues Statement on Governor Newsom's 2023-24 Budget Proposal](#) - Chancellor's Office of the CCC.

- [If Everyone Works Together, We can Fix Community College Transfer Process](#) - EdSource.

California State University

- [Bill Would Require CSU to Give Workers Full Semester of Parental Leave](#) - EdSource.

- [Billions are Needed to Repair, Renovate, and Maintain Cal State's Buildings](#) - EdSource.

- [CSU asks: What do You Want in the Next Systemwide Chancellor?](#) - EdSource.

- [CSU Statement on Governor's January 2023-24 Budget Proposal](#) - Chancellor's Office of the CSU.

University of California

- [Key Lawmaker Endorses Transfer Admissions Guarantee Across University of California](#) - EdSource.

- [Conflict Brews over Governor's Student Transfer Guarantee plan for Ultra-competitive UCLA](#) - LA Times.

- [Six Takeaways for Californians after the UC Graduate Students Worker Strike](#) - CalMatters.

- [UC Statement on Governor Newsom 2023-24 Budget Proposal](#) - Office of the President of the UC.

Introducing the New Members of the Assembly Higher Education Committee



Asm. Mike Fong, Chair of the Higher Education Committee

1. *As the Chair of the Higher Education Committee, what higher education topics do you think will be a priority this year?*

“Topics of priority will include addressing enrollment decline especially in our community college system, increasing student housing, expanding support for basic needs including transportation, and expanding of dual enrollment opportunities.

Additionally, relevant issues will include increasing student access to higher education, expanding workforce training, and improving the quality of educational opportunities will be priorities. The continued execution of the UC and CSU Compacts will also be a priority to close equity gaps and promote student success; expand access to the UC and CSU, including for transfer students; increase the affordability of education, including addressing non-tuition costs; increase intersegmental collaboration to benefit students; support workforce preparedness and high-demand career pipelines; and provide access to online course offerings.”

2. *Where did you complete your postsecondary education?*

“I attended University of California at Los Angeles for my undergraduate degree. I received my Masters of Public Administration degree from California State University at Northridge.”

3. *If you could pick one book to read for the rest of your life, what would it be and why?*

“I would pick *Leaders Eat Last* as it is a great read on leadership qualities and how to improve organizations. I would also pick *Never Eat Alone* as it relates the importance of building relationships and networking.”

Asm. Tri Ta, Vice Chair of the Higher Education Committee

1. *As the Vice Chair of Higher Education, what higher education topics do you think will be a priority this year for the Committee?*

“I want to make college accessible to all those that want to attend. Outside of traditional Bachelor’s degree programs, I also want to make sure that students that are more interested in career technical education have the same opportunities to gain valuable skills that make them workforce ready as soon as they complete their program. I look forward to supporting policies that advance those goals as Vice Chair of Higher Education.”



2. *Did you attend a community college or higher education university in California for your postsecondary degree?*

“Yes, I attended Glendale Community College when I migrated to the United States at 19 years old from Vietnam, after Community College I went to Cal State LA.”

3. *If you could pick one book for the rest of your life, what would it be and why?*

The Philosophy of Aristotle, this book also helped me learn English when I moved to this country. I fell in love with political philosophy, which led me into a world of politics. This book inspired me to go to school and to get into public service as a district staffer, which led me to run for Mayor.”

Asm. Dawn Addis



1. *What higher education institutions did you attend?* “San Francisco State University.”

2. *What issue areas do you see as a priority in higher education in this legislative session?*

“As a former educator, I will be focusing largely on barriers to education for students, particularly for housing. I also plan on addressing campus

climate, student safety, and finally, working conditions for faculty and employees.”

Asm. Kate Sanchez



1. *What higher education institutions did you attend?* “B.A. in Political Science and Law from Salve Regina University.”

2. *What issue areas do you see as a priority in higher education in this legislative session?*

“I’m committed to improving college affordability and making

higher education more accessible for working-class families.”

Asm. Greg Wallis

1. *What higher education institutions did you attend?* “California Lutheran College”.

2. *What issues areas do you see as a priority for higher education in this legislative session?*

“My top priority is ensuring that residents of the 47th Assembly District have equitable access to affordable higher education opportunities. Thirteen percent of my constituents live in poverty making it difficult for families to gather the resources needed to send their children to college. That is why making sure that the student center at the CSU San Bernardino Palm Desert Campus is fully funded. The Palm Desert campus is key to educational attainment for the nearly 5,500 graduates of the desert region’s public school system each year.”



2023 - 2024 BUDGET UPDATE

Last year the Governor entered into an agreement with the California Community Colleges, the California State University and the University of California to provide five years of ongoing budgetary increase in exchange for meeting several educational goals set by the Governor. Links to each segment’s compact is located below:

- [California Community Colleges](#)
- [California State University](#)
- [University of California](#)

In January, the Governor proposed his new higher education budget. Due to a downturn in fiscal revenues, the budget proposal was rather streamlined in comparison with previous budgetary proposals. The CSU and the UC will receive a 5% increase in their base operations. The CCC will receive an 8.13% cost of living increase for their apportionments and additional funding for enrollment growth. Policy points included in the budget is a requirement for UCLA to participate in transfer degree pathways for community college students and a request for the California State University to take out bonds to pay for capital outlay projects promised in previous budgets. The entire higher education budget summary is located [here](#).

Asm. Liz Ortega



1. What higher education institutions did you attend?

“I began my higher education journey as a community college student. As a single mother of two, I balanced my educational goals with my family responsibilities while working long hours as a union organizer representing healthcare workers. After years of night classes, I was proud to earn a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from the University of Phoenix.”

2. What issue areas do you see as a priority in higher education in this legislative session?

“ As a freshman, I’m excited to learn about the legislative process and the committee with an eye towards the long-term work needed to address many of the obstacles I experienced firsthand:

Barriers to accessibility, especially making college more affordable and providing flexible classes for students who must balance full-time work while pursuing their higher education. Addressing the college debt crisis, which disproportionately impacts communities of color, and especially Black women, who have the highest college debt of any other group. Supporting employees within our higher education system, who support student development and learning and keep campuses running.”

Committee Corner

Reports published on Higher Education Policy:

- [University of California Compact Report](#)
- [California State University Compact Report](#)
- [The Dual Enrollment Playbook by the Aspen Institute](#)
- [The Legislative Analyst’s Office has published various reports on the 2023-2024 January Budget Proposal](#)
- [Nursing the Future by the Campaign for College Opportunity](#)

Committee Office Hours -

The Assembly Higher Education Committee continues to offer office hours to help onboard current and new higher education staff in Member’s offices or to offer assistance with bill concepts pertaining to higher education. To schedule a thirty minute session with the Assembly Higher Education Staff, please email AHED.Committee@assembly.ca.gov.

Thank you for taking the time to read the AHED Dispatch. Should you have questions or wish to offer a suggestion for future content, please contact the Committee at AHED.Committee@assembly.ca.gov.