Roundtable 3: Historically Marginalized Populations in the Community College System

Speaker Bios

1. **Eboni M. Zamani-Gallaher, PhD**, Professor of Education Policy, Organization and Leadership/Director of the Office of Community College Research and Leadership (OCCRL); Executive Director, Council for the Study of Community Colleges (CSCC)

   Eboni Zamani-Gallaher is Professor of Higher Education/Community College Leadership and Director of the Office for Community College Research and Leadership (OCCRL). She previously served 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. 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. [Link to Full Biography](#)

2. **Lorenzo Baber, PhD**, Associate Professor and Program Chair of Higher Education at Loyola University, Chicago; President, Council for the Study of Community Colleges

   Lorenzo DuBois Baber is an Associate Professor and Program Chair of Higher Education at Loyola University, Chicago. He also serves as current President for the Council for the Study of Community Colleges, a leading research organization dedicated to furthering knowledge of community college contexts. Dr. Baber’s scholarly interest broadly examine equity and social justice in postsecondary education. His research foci include leadership within community college contexts; experiences of minoritized students in postsecondary STEM education; and use of critical theory to inform higher
education policies and practices. Dr. Baber is the author of nearly forty journal articles, book chapters, and policy reports. He received his Ph.D. in Educational Policy Studies from Pennsylvania State University.

3. Sonya Christian, PhD, Chancellor, Kern Community College District

In 2021, Dr. Sonya Christian became the sixth chancellor of the Kern Community College District. Dr. Christian strives to cultivate district-wide ownership of advancing the district’s mission.

Dr. Christian was a math faculty prior to moving into the administrative ranks of dean, vice president, president, and now chancellor. An advocate for continued education across social and economic boundaries, Dr. Sonya Christian has worked tirelessly to uphold and further that mission during her tenure as Chancellor of the Kern Community College District.

Christian began her three-decade career in education at BC in 1991, first as a math faculty member and later as division chair, then Dean of Science, Engineering, Allied Health and Mathematics. In 2003, Christian joined Lane Community College in Eugene, Oregon as associate vice president for instruction, then vice president of academic and student affairs and chief academic officer. Christian returned home in 2013 after being selected as the 10th President in Bakersfield College’s prestigious history. Dr. Christian was selected as Kern Community College District Chancellor in 2021.

4. Pamela Luster, EdD, President, San Diego Mesa College

Dr. Pamela T. Luster is in her eleventh year as the president of San Diego Mesa College. Previously she served as the vice president of Student Services, interim vice president of Instruction, and dean of Academic Services at Las Positas College. At West Valley College, Dr. Luster held the position of dean of Career Education and Workforce Development and started her career as a faculty member/coordinator in the Disability and Educational Support Program. Dr. Luster earned her BA and MA in Speech Pathology & Audiology from San Jose State University, and her Ed.D in Educational Leadership and Change from Fielding Graduate University. She has served for 8 years as adjunct lecturer at San Diego State University.
in the Community College Leadership doctoral program. Currently, Dr. Luster serves as the president of the Chief Executive Officer of the California Community Colleges (CEOCCC) Board. She has partnered with Dr. Keith Curry, CEO of Compton College, to form The #EquityAvengers as they work together to transform equity in all forms in California community colleges and nationally. Focused on closing the outcome gaps of minority students, they host a weekly #EquityChat on Twitter interviewing equity-minded practitioners. Dr. Luster’s scholarly and professional pursuits are focused on student equity, diversity and inclusion and building campus and community coalitions towards cultural proficiency and humility. She is committed to finding permanent solutions to address the basic needs of community college students.

**Moderator: Dr. Anjalé Welton, Professor, Department of Educational Policy Analysis, School of Education, University of Wisconsin, Madison**

Anjalé D. Welton’s scholarship examines how educational leaders both dialogue about and address race and racism in their school communities. Her research specific to racial equity also considers the role of student and community voice in education reform and secondary to postsecondary education transitions. Some of her professional experiences include being the coordinator of a leadership and empowerment program for urban youth, a facilitator of an urban education teacher preparation program, and a teacher in large urban districts. She is also committed to providing professional development for educational leaders on issues of race and equity. Her most recent co-authored book (with Sarah Diem, University of Missouri), *Anti-racist Educational Leadership and Policy: Addressing Racism in Public Education*, challenges educational leaders to question the racial implications of the policies they design and implement. In 2020, their book received the Taylor and Francis “Outstanding New Textbook” Award in Behavioral Sciences and Education, and in 2021 it received the AESA Critic’s Choice Book Award.