

Guiding Futures: Elevating Student-Centered Counseling and Support

March 14, 2025 | 8:00 am-2:00 pm | Riverside City College

8:00 am

Welcome Remarks | CIS 114A/B

- Dr. Eric Bishop, Interim Vice Chancellor of Educational Services, Riverside Community College District
- Linda Collins, Executive Director, Career Ladders Project
- Dr. Kristi Woods, Interim Vice President of Planning & Development, Riverside City College

9:00 am

Breakout Session 1

Moving from Transactional to Transformational: Enhancing Student Counseling Practices

Strand: Equitable Counseling | BL 121

This session is designed for participants who are committed to moving beyond transactional counseling toward transformational, equity-driven counseling practices. Through sharing transformational practices and collaborative dialogues, participants will explore strategies that align with systemic change while addressing the diverse and evolving needs of today's students. Engage with regional colleagues who are leading innovative counseling redesign efforts, and gain practical tools to implement meaningful change on your campus.

- Dr. Patricia Avila, Counselor, Norco College
- Dr. Monique Greene, STEM Counselor, Riverside City College
- Dr. Corey Timberlake, UMOJA Counselor and Coordinator, Riverside City College

Beyond Transactional: Building Relational Counseling for Equitable Dual Enrollment

Strand: Dual Enrollment | BL 123

Join us for an engaging session on the critical role of counseling and student supports in expanding equitable dual enrollment opportunities. Dr. Adrienne Grayson from Riverside City College will share insights on how strengthening relationships with high school and college counselors can improve student success. Educators from the Gateway College and Career Academy will share strategies for engaging at-promise students in dual enrollment opportunities. Camille Medrano from Education Trust–West will introduce Counseling Guides that were informed by counselors and advisors with a lens on dual enrollment. This session will also include an interactive engagement activity that will enable counselors and educators to explore promising practices and strategies for building relationships to improve dual enrollment pathways so they are accessible and student-centered.

- Dr. Adrienne Grayson, Associate Dean, Educational Partnerships, Riverside City College
- Jasmine Guerrero, CTE Coordinator, Gateway College and Career Academy
- Camille Medrano, Senior Associate, Educator Engagement, Education Trust–West
- Beatriz Perez, ELD Liasion, Gateway College and Career Academy
- Andrea Puente, Lead Counselor, Gateway College and Career Academy
- Laurencia Walker, Director, Career Ladders Project

Student Centered Success: Expanding the Reach and Impact of Student Success Teams

Strand: Student Success Teams | BL 124

This session invites educators, advisors, success coaches, and administrators to reimagine the structure and impact of Student Success Teams, ensuring they are dynamic, student-centered, and equity-driven. Hear from Cerritos College, Moreno Valley College, and the host college, Riverside City College, about how they have implemented and evolved their Student Success Teams. Join us as they share their experiences, challenges, and key lessons learned. Through interactive discussions, participants will explore models from these institutions, strategies for overcoming common challenges, and approaches to enhancing cross-functional collaboration. Learn practical tips, set goals, and gain insights into scaling or adapting success team models to meet the unique needs of your institution.

- Courtney Carter, Associate Professor of Counseling, Career Center Coordinator, and Guided Pathways Coordinator, Riverside City College
- Dr. Chelena Fisher, Counselor, Cerritos College
- Dr. Eliza Hoyos Vences, Dean of Counseling Services, Cerritos College
- Deanna Murrell, Associate Professor, Counselor, and Articulation Officer, Moreno Valley College
- Dr. Lorena Newson, Dean of Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement, Riverside City College
- Sherry Shojaei, Director, Career Ladders Project

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10:30 am	Break
10:45 am	<p>Breakout Session 2</p> <p>Thriving Together: Expanding Student-Centered Equitable Counseling <i>Strand: Equitable Counseling BL 121</i></p> <p>How can counseling practices evolve to better serve and uplift students? In this interactive session, counselors from Chabot College and Cerritos College will share how they have reimagined counseling to be more equitable, student-centered, and impactful. Through their experiences, they will discuss how they have interrogated traditional counseling models, built strong partnerships across campus to extend the reach of counseling services, and centered student voices in shaping their approaches. Participants will have a chance to be in community with other colleagues to share promising counseling practices, explore strategies for fostering collaboration, and leave with actionable ideas to enhance student success through intentional, equity-driven counseling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Chelena Fisher, Counselor, Cerritos College • Byron Reaves, Director, Career Ladders Project • Tommy Reed, UMOJA Coordinator and Counselor, Chabot College <p>Advancing Equity Through Student Support Programs and Holistic Counseling Support <i>Strand: Dual Enrollment BL 123</i></p> <p>This session examines national, state, and regional dual enrollment trends, addressing disparities and identifying strategies to increase college access and success. It will spotlight the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Vision 2030: Inland Empire Project, a regional initiative dedicated to expanding equitable dual enrollment opportunities for Black and African American youth. The discussion will explore STEM and CTE pathways, community and institutional partnerships, and the critical role of counseling in equity intervention programs like Dual Enrollment, Umoja, Rising Scholars, and MESA. The session concludes with actionable next steps for developing sustainable, equity-driven dual enrollment programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tye Griffith, Visiting Dean of Equitable and Inclusive College and Career Pathways, California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office • Dr. Dani Smith-Morton, Visiting Dean of Equitable and Inclusive College & Career Pathways, California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office • Laurencia Walker, Director, Career Ladders Project <p>Implementing the Student Success Team Model: Challenges, Triumphs, and Lessons Learned <i>Strand: Student Success Teams BL 124</i></p> <p>Crafton Hills College has been actively implementing the Student Success Team (SST) model to enhance student support and equity-driven practices. In this interactive session, Crafton Hills College will share firsthand experiences, challenges, and key lessons learned in building and sustaining an effective SST framework. This session will dive into the realities of implementing SSTs, navigating structural barriers, fostering collaboration, and ensuring that every student receives the guidance they need to thrive. Participants will explore innovative strategies to refine team roles and strengthen cross-campus partnerships to drive equitable student success. Through dialogue and shared insights, attendees will leave with actionable steps to enhance or implement SSTs within their own institutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jimmy Grabow, Counseling Department Co-Chair, Crafton Hills College • Dr. Eliza Hoyos Vences, Dean of Counseling Services, Cerritos College • Dr. Ivan Peña, Dean of Student Equity and Success, Crafton Hills College • Michelle Simotas, Senior Director, Career Ladders Project
12:10 pm	<p>Lunch and Student Voices Panel CIS 114A/B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riverside City College Students: Promis Jones, George Molinero, Derek Redmon, Joudi Sawas • Moderator: Dr. Corey Timberlake, UMOJA Counselor and Coordinator, Riverside City College
1:00 pm	<p>Counseling with Intention: Ensuring African American/Black Students Thrive CIS 114A/B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Darla M. Cooper, Executive Director, The RP Group
1:50 pm	Concluding Comments

Tell us what you think!



<https://bit.ly/3FnB2lg>