

AACCCTA

African American California Community College
Trustees and Administration Association

President Barbara Calhoun, Trustee – Compton Community College * **Vice President** Nichelle Henderson, Trustee – Los Angeles CCD
Treasurer Ricky Shabazz Ed.D., President – San Diego City College * **Secretary** Kerri Webb, Public/Govt. Relations Director–El Camino CCD
Parliamentarian Crystal Jackson Ed.D., Trustee – West Hills Community College

March 10, 2025 Caucus E-Convening Minutes

SUMMARY

The meeting covered various topics including award nominations and selection processes, and diversity and inclusion matters. The team discussed organizing a statewide Zoom gathering in response to a recent letter and forming a screening group for awards selection. They also addressed the importance of understanding Proposition 209 and its implications for race-conscious work in California, and planned a community collaborative event to address the Dear Colleague Letter.

DISCUSSION

Refining Nomination Process for Awards

The team discussed the survey mechanism for gathering nominations for the upcoming awards. They considered using survey monkey, but also explored other options. They also discussed the possibility of a lifetime legislator award and a college award, with the latter potentially using objective metrics. The team agreed to refine the nomination process, including questions about the nominee's background and contact information. They also clarified that the nominee does not have to be African-American. The team will consult with the chair once they are on board.

Legislator and College Award Selection Process

The team discussed the selection process for the legislator award, considering whether it should be limited to elected officials or include staffers. They also discussed the college award, deciding to focus on colleges that have made significant strides to reduce equity gaps. The team also discussed the survey monkey app and the possibility of self-nomination for the college award, with a proposed screening committee to evaluate nominees based on established criteria.

Federal Developments and Affinity Group Status

The team discussed the recent letter sent to colleagues regarding federal developments. They received positive feedback but also noted the need for further action. Ricky suggested partnering with other organizations like Emoja Amend and Pipelines to Possibility to align with a joint statement. The team also discussed the status of African American employee networks on their campuses, with Ricky mentioning that they have unofficial groups and landing pages for affinity groups. Concerns were raised about the impact of federal actions on students, particularly those from migrant backgrounds. The team agreed to proceed with caution regarding funding and to communicate with the college about the situation.

Addressing Diversity and Prop 209 I

Dr. discussed the importance of understanding and addressing diversity and inclusion issues, particularly in relation to Prop 209. Thuy clarified that Prop 209 does not entirely prevent race-conscious work and emphasized the need for colleges to understand its implications. Kerri and Thuy shared their experiences protesting Prop 209. The conversation ended with the introduction of Obianuju, a law clerk and attorney from Nigeria, and the announcement of a statewide Zoom gathering.

Board Meeting Summary and Zoom Gathering

The board discusses three main points: taking minutes and recording attendance at board meetings, organizing a statewide Zoom gathering in response to a recent letter, and forming a screening group for awards selection. For the Zoom gathering, they plan to invite other organizations like Umoja, A2MEND, and Pipeline to Possibility to join. They decide to ask the League to send their letter to a wider audience. The board also discusses the importance of understanding Proposition 209 and its implications for race-conscious work in California. They agree to provide a primer on Prop 209 during the Zoom gathering. Lastly, they discuss forming a screening group for awards selection and the need to provide criteria for the group's decision-making process.

Lifetime Legislator Award Proposal

Thuy proposed eliminating the lifetime legislator award and focusing on the legislator award instead. Barbara suggested that the lifetime award could be a legislator award with more than one person. Thuy also suggested changing the college award criteria to focus on colleges' success in narrowing the student success equity gaps, rather than transfer data to HBCU. Barbara agreed with this proposal.

Ken Brown Trustee Award Nominations

The group discusses the Ken Brown Trustee Award, clarifying that it is not a posthumous award but rather renamed in Ken Brown's honor. They decide on a June 30th deadline for award nominations, which will be announced at the upcoming trustee conference in early May. The team plans to create a survey for nominations, likely using SurveyMonkey, and will send a mock version to the board for approval before making it public. They also briefly mention scheduling a Zoom conference about a dear colleague letter, but do not finalize a date.

Community Collaborative Event Planning

The group discusses scheduling a community collaborative event in April to address the Dear Colleague Letter. They settle on April 16th or 17th from 6:30 to 8:00 PM, with a preference for the 16th. Thuy will put holds on calendars for both dates. They plan to involve partner organizations and have a prep meeting beforehand. Kerri will send invitation letters to the organizations, and Thuy will prepare a 10-minute primer on Prop 209 and the Dear Colleague Letter for the event.

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NEXT STEPS

- Barbara: Reach out to Herb English, Umoja CEO, and Pipeline to Possibility about organizing a joint zoom gathering
- Kerri: Draft email with Barbara's signature to partner organizations about joint zoom gathering and propose evening/Saturday dates
- Team: Organize zoom gathering for April 17th to discuss the Dear Colleague letter with partner organizations
- Thuy: Prepare a short primer on Prop 209 and the dear colleague letter for the prep meeting
- Kerri: Send the Dear Colleague letter to Rina at the League to distribute to the entire League membership including all trustees, CEOs, and caucuses
- Kerri: Update the Dear Colleague letter to include the upcoming zoom gathering date once confirmed
- Thuy: Create award nomination criteria and survey for board review
- Board: Review and approve mock survey for award nominations before public release
- Team: Schedule and conduct a prep meeting with partners before the main community convening
- Team: Assign zoom host and two monitors for managing questions during the community collaborative meeting
- Thuy: Put calendar holds for April 16th and 17th for the community collaborative meeting
- Team: Prepare to document and distribute meeting minutes with Q&A to all zoom participants after the convening
- Barbara: Announce the awards nomination process at the May Trustee Conference
- Thuy: Create and coordinate with Kerri and Obianuju to set up a survey for award nominations with June 30th, 5 PM deadline