



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
YOUNG MALES OF COLOR
 CONSORTIUM



4TH ANNUAL
CSU YOUNG MALES OF COLOR
CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 9-10 | SAN DIEGO STATE

CSUYMOC.ORG/CONFERENCE23



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WELCOME TO BEYOND THE RHETORIC: ERADICATING OPPORTUNITY & EQUITY GAPS FOR MALES OF COLOR

We are thrilled to welcome you to the 4th Annual California State University Young Males of Color Conference. This event serves as a central gathering for our 23 campuses. However, we are excited to announce that the CSU Young Males of Color Consortium has been intentionally cultivating relationships with community colleges. The collaboration has generated intersegmental partnerships designed to advance systemic changes in higher education and improve outcomes for Black, Latinx, Asian Pacific Islander, and Native American males.

This year's conference serves as a significant touchpoint for our collaboration. It will deepen our partnership, and we will continue to develop shared goals. Together, we aim to provide a platform that will allow us to explore promising practices as we reshape the narrative surrounding the educational outcomes of young males of color. Extensive research, California State University, and California Community College outcomes underscore the pressing need to intensify our focus on access, retention, transfer, and graduation rates for males of color.

Each campus remains instrumental to the mission of the CSU Young Males of Color Consortium. We recognize the valuable work taking place, and our goal is to spotlight that knowledge, to inspire and foster opportunity for widespread transformation. As we strive to understand better and respond to the unique challenges young males of color face, we aim to chart a more equitable educational course for this student population.

This event marks our fourth annual convening. As in past years, our commitment remains twofold: 1) we strive to learn from, inform, and empower dedicated practitioners engaged in this vital work, and 2) we extend our reach to the students whose lives are the focal point of our efforts. We wholeheartedly embrace the mission and vision that our keynote sessions and workshops are set to deliver. We hope this experience will be transformative, educational, and empowering for all participants.

As we embark on this exciting journey, we look forward to the meaningful discussions and connections that will enrich our time together. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your commitment to this conference and for supporting the CSU Young Males of Color Consortium.

In community,
Dr. William Franklin and Dr. Matthew Smith



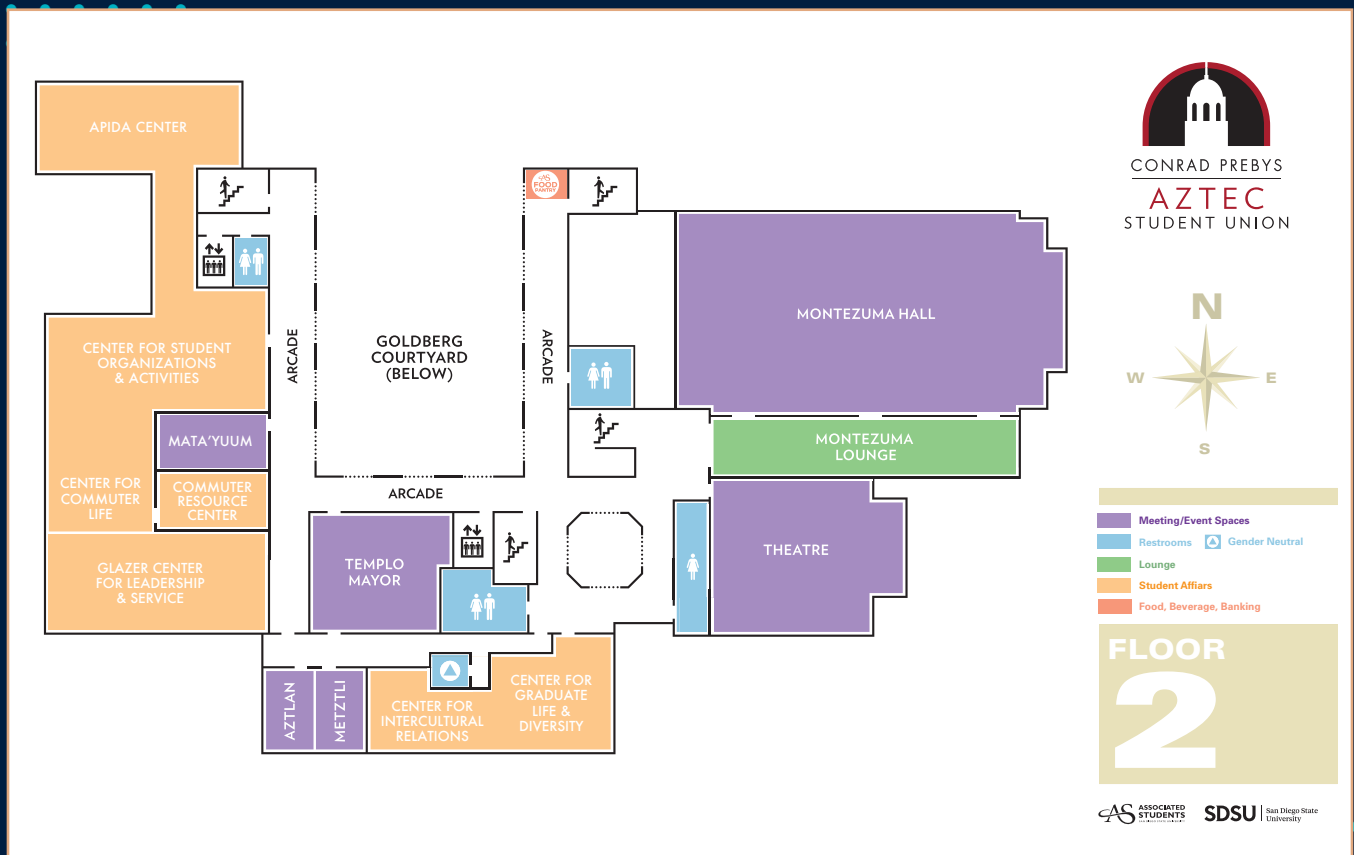
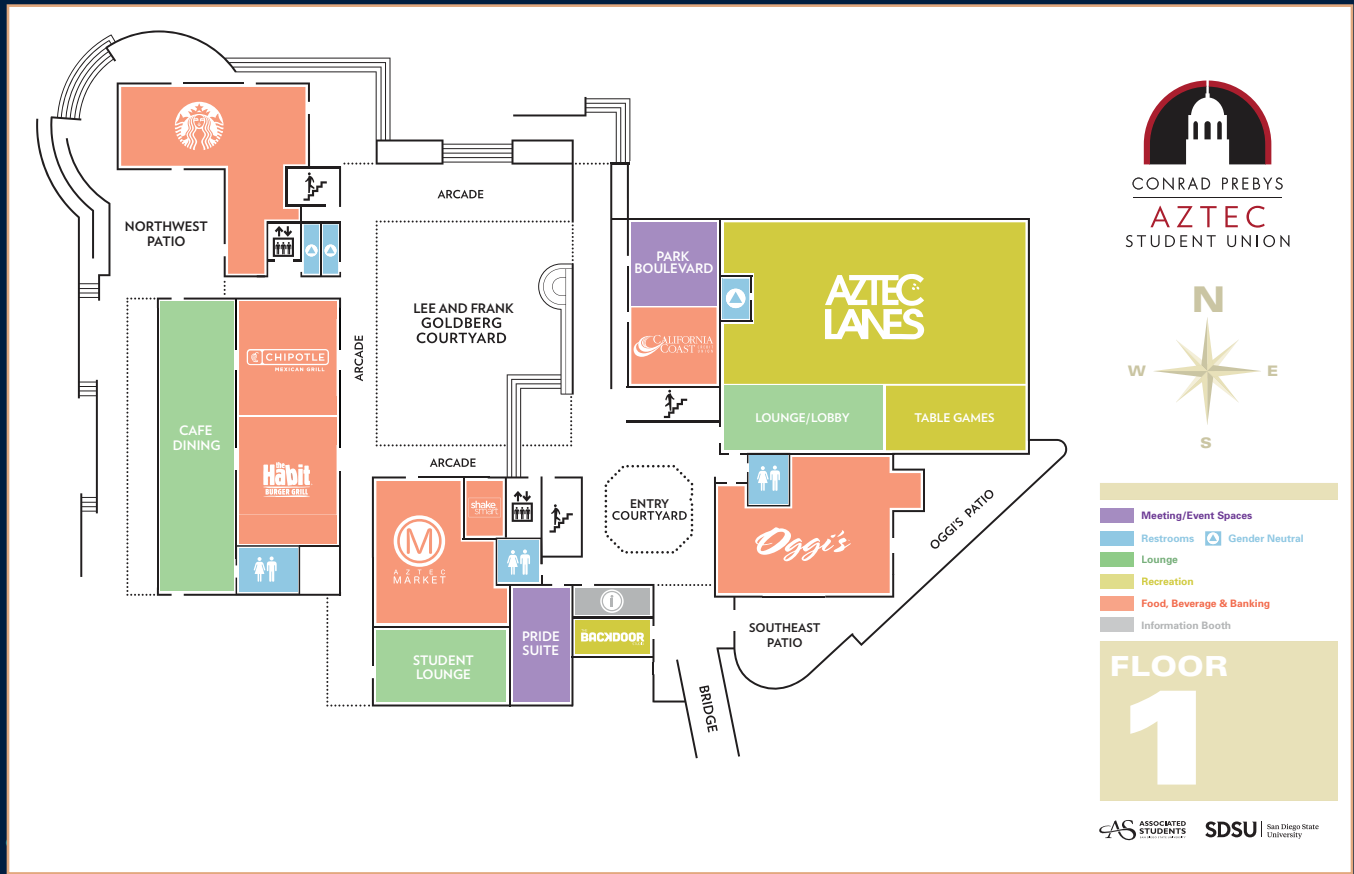
William Franklin, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator
CSU Young Males of Color Consortium



Matthew Smith, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator
CSU Young Males of Color Consortium

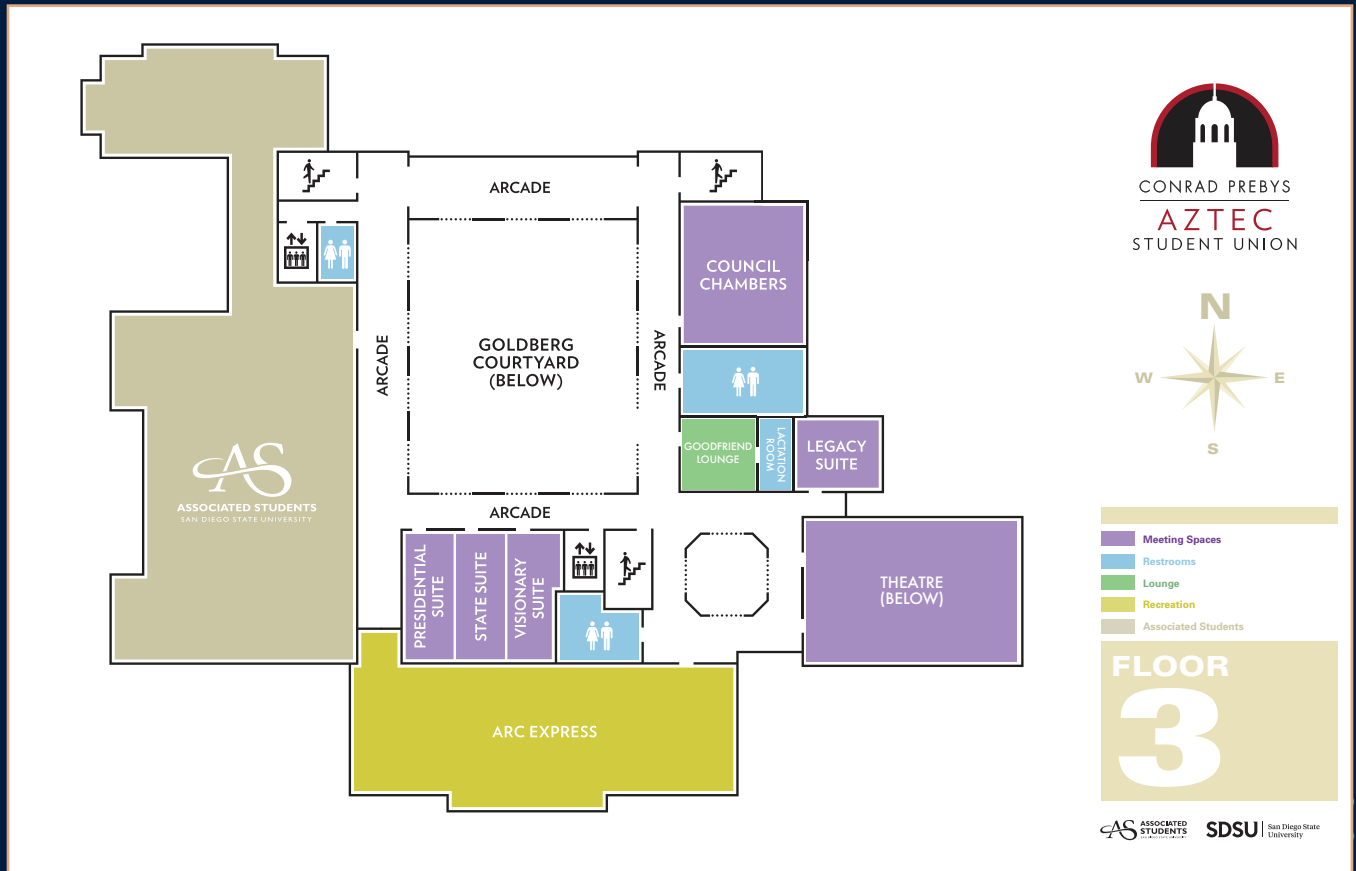


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SCHEDULE

Sunday, October 8, 2023

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. - Conference Registration Opens

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. - Opening Reception - San Diego Marriott Mission Valley

Monday, October 9, 2023

7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Registration Open	
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Networking & Breakfast	Montezuma Hall
9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Opening Plenary Centering Student Voices	Montezuma Hall
11:00 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.	Breakout Sessions I	Various
12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Networking & Lunch	
1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Breakout Sessions II	Various
2:45 p.m. – 2:55 p.m.	Break	
3:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.	Keynote Speaker: A.J. Mada	Montezuma Hall
3:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Q&A with Keynote Speaker	Montezuma Hall
4:10 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.	Campus Debriefs	Montezuma Hall
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Bowling	Aztec Lanes

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Registration Opens	
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Networking & Breakfast	Montezuma Hall
9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Keynote Speaker: Dr. Shaun Harper	Montezuma Hall
9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Q&A with Keynote Speaker	Montezuma Hall
10:15 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.	Breakout Session III	Various
11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	CSU YMOC Consortium	Montezuma Hall
12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Networking & Lunch	
1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Campus Action Planning	Montezuma Hall
2:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Closing Remarks	Montezuma Hall
3:00 p.m.	Forum Closed	



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



A.J. MADA

A.J. Mada serves as the Equity Coaching Academy Director at the USC Race and Equity Center. In this role, he works with higher education institutions, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies to develop and deliver curriculum, strategy advising, training, coaching, and consulting on a wide range of DEI topics. While obtaining his MBA at the University of Southern California Marshall School of Business, A.J. served two years as the Marshall Graduate Student Association's Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. His higher education journey began at Fullerton College before transferring to the University of Alabama, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business. Before assuming his current position in the USC Race and Equity Center, A.J. spent many years in marketing and managerial roles at AT&T. He is deeply passionate about fighting discrimination and creating pathways of opportunity for those who have been systematically denied them through unjust practices. In his free time, A.J. enjoys being active, watching a wide range of sports, and spending time with his family. He is on the team for Takeoff, a multiyear initiative funded by ECMC Foundation that aims to improve the lives, experiences, and outcomes of college men of color.



DR. SHAUN HARPER

Dr. Shaun Harper is one of the nation's most highly respected experts on boys and men of color. He is a Provost Professor in the Rossier School of Education and the Marshall School of Business at the University of Southern California. In 2022, he was appointed University Professor, a distinction bestowed only to 27 of 4,700 USC full-time faculty members. Dr. Harper also is the Clifford and Betty Allen Chair in Urban Leadership, founder and executive director of the USC Race and Equity Center, and a Forbes contributor. He served as the 2020-21 American Educational Research Association president and the 2016-17 Association for the Study of Higher Education president. He was inducted into the National Academy of Education in 2021. His 12 books include *Advancing Black Male Student Success from Preschool Through Ph.D.* He also has authored over 100 peer-reviewed journal articles and other academic papers, as well as nearly 100 essays published on CNN.com and in *The Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Rolling Stone*, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, and many other news outlets. The recipient of dozens of top honors in his field and four honorary degrees, Professor Harper is currently ranked the nation's 4th most influential professor in Education Week.



PLENARY SPEAKERS



ALVIN ENGO

History/ History Education, Undergraduate Senior
California State University, Long Beach



ERMELINDO SALGADO HERNANDEZ

Master of Social Work, First-Year Graduate Student
California State University, Chico



JOSÉ MANUEL WONG

**Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy, Second
Year Graduate Student**
San Diego State University



NASCIR VAZQUEZ

Audio Engineering, Undergraduate Sophomore
California State University, Dominguez Hills



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Monday, October 9 | 11:00 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.

Student Track

Unleashing Your WHY: Empowering Young Men of Color for Academic and Leadership Excellence

In a dynamic and transformative presentation, we invite you to embark on a journey that will ignite your passion, unlock your potential, and empower you to pave your path to success! “Unleashing Your WHY” is an experience carefully crafted to guide young men of color in higher education toward realizing their purpose and potential. Our presentation taps into the power of emotional intelligence strategies, which allow you to harness your emotions as tools for growth and resilience. Through introspective exercises and storytelling, we’ll help you uncover the driving force that fuels your dreams and ambitions.

Location: Montezuma Hall | **Presenters:** Dr. Sean James, Jaylan Hicks

Beyond Your Bachelor’s: Exploring Graduate School

Are you ready to take your education to the next level? Join us for a session on the ins and outs of graduate school. During this session, we’ll discuss how to determine if graduate school is right for you, factors to consider before applying to graduate school, and how to finance a graduate degree. Participants will gain valuable insights about the exciting pathways that await them beyond their bachelor’s degree.

Location: Pride Suite | **Presenter:** Valerie Gomez

Leveraging College for Entrepreneurship

This workshop unveils how the college experience can be your launchpad to entrepreneurship. Led by a seasoned tax professional who embarked on multiple entrepreneurial journeys in his early twenties, this session offers insights, strategies, and real-life case studies. Discover the resources, networks, and opportunities uniquely available during college years and learn how to utilize them for business success.

Location: Aztlan Room | **Presenter:** Bobby T. Whetstone



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Monday, October 9 | 11:00 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.

Practitioner Track

Developing Strategic Partnerships with Community Colleges

This session will discuss the benefits of developing strategic partnerships with local community colleges, in particular those with Male Success Initiatives. While a majority of MSIs within the CSU system focus on first year/first time in college students, the presenters discuss the need to engage with and support community college students and future transfer students. Presenters will review strategies used to develop Cal Poly Pomona's Transfer Success and Men of Color Transfer Day to support community college students. Additionally, attendees will engage in discussions about current practices and identify promising strategies that can create bridges for men of color from community college to Cal State campuses and beyond. Additionally, attendees will engage in discussions about supporting transfer students post-transfer and the need to create transfer components within MSIs at CSU Campuses.

Location: Union Theatre | **Presenters:** Dr. Eligio Martinez, Reggie Robles, Daniel Jesus Grajeda

Navigating the Waters of Fundraising and Sustainability

This session will explore fundraising and sustainability strategies to advance efforts for boys and men of color on campus, with an emphasis on how to leverage philanthropic institutions to support your project goals. We'll explore the key principles and tactics to consider as you approach and engage with funders and highlight what questions funders typically ask as they connect with prospective grantees. A brief landscape on the field of philanthropy will be provided with plenty of time for Q&A.

Location: Templo Mayor | **Presenter:** Saúl Valdez

Fostering Homeplaces and a Youth Support Complex

Drawing on bell hook's writing on homeplace, this presentation highlights the programming and practices of community-based organizations in California—like the Brothers, Sons, Selves Coalition in Los Angeles—affirming boys and young men of color. Specifically, it centers collective healing, political education, community organizing, and vulnerability as critical aspects of cultivating homeplaces for young men of color. Session attendees will have an opportunity to engage in activities and discussions that move us towards creating pathways to healing and fostering a youth support complex for boys and young men of color.

Location: Metztli | **Presenter:** Dr. Uriel Serrano

Reimagining Care: Providing Holistic Supports to Young Men of Color

The lived experience of young men of color is nuanced, layered and directly impacts their educational trajectory. This workshop will explore praxis of care to provide intersectional and individualized support to YMOC within an educational setting.

Location: Visionary Suite | **Presenter:** Dr. Brianna Harvey



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Monday, October 9 | 1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Student Track

From Pain to Power: Moving Toward Systems Change to Improve Outcomes for Boys and Men of Color

Youth and community organizing has been an effective tool to combat inequality and change policies that directly impact the lives of boys and men of color and their families and communities. Community organizations have led the charge to decriminalize our communities, make education more accessible, and even push public officials to invest resources into communities of color. This workshop outlines some concrete ways university partners and their allies can get involved in advocacy to improve outcomes for boys and men of color.

Location: Montezuma Hall | **Presenter:** Dr. David C. Turner III & Alliance for Boys and Men of Color

Get In Your Bag

Get In Your Bag is an interactive workshop designed to explore the experiences of young men, uncovering the elements that either support or hinder their personal growth journey. Through Get In Your Bag, participants will develop a better understanding of themselves and learn tools to navigate life's challenges more effectively.

Location: Pride Suite | **Presenter:** Tyree Vance

Gender 101: Unpacking Manhood, Binaries, and Norms

In this interactive workshop, we will unpack gender and expectations around it. Through various activities and discussions, we will explore how gender (and manhood) is dynamic, expansive, fluid, expressive, and changes over time rather than a fixed thing. The goal is to expand traditional gender ideologies—like what it means to be a “man”—and recognize the diversity of gender identities. We hope you leave the workshop with ideas and tools to create more welcoming, vulnerable, and inclusive relationships.

Location: Legacy Suite | **Presenters:** Anibal Serrano, Dr. Uriel Serrano



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Monday, October 9 | 1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Practitioner Track

Supporting Men of Color Through Their Possibilities

This interactive session focuses on developing and refining strategies to meet the varied men of color in their higher education endeavors. In order to do so, we begin by grounding the diverse backgrounds, identities, and aspirations of men of color to better understand their needs. Participants will be engaged in reflections and activities to identify opportunities for engaging and supporting men of color through their possibilities and empowering them as well.

Location: Union Theatre | **Presenter:** Dr. Derrick R. Brooms, Dr. Joe Luis Hernandez

“I Love My Students But I Hate The Pimpin:” Unpacking The Struggles and Resistance of Black (Male) Practitioners in Higher Ed

We talk a lot about addressing equity barriers faced by students of color in higher education...BUT what about the practitioners who support these students? What about their needs? This session serves as a space to discuss practitioner experiences within the context of a cycle termed “Institutional Neglect, AntiBlackness, and Labor Exploitation” (INABLE). Practitioners will also strategize around how to resist INABLE within their day-to-day practice.

Location: Templo Mayor | **Presenter:** Dr. Jonathan Henderson

Setting Goals for YMOC Transferring from Community Colleges to CSUs

How many YMOC transfer from community colleges to CSUs and how do they perform once they are there? This session will highlight specific data about success rates of YMOC transferring from community colleges to the CSUs. Participants will gain a common understanding of the problem, set Consortium-wide goals for these students, and identify activities that will help achieve these goals.

Location: Metzli | **Presenter:** Dr. Namrata Patel

Leveraging Disaggregated Datasets to Improve Outcomes for CSU Young Males of Color

This session will showcase a series of dashboard visualizations that have been developed to better inform the work of CSU educators and practitioners across the state. In this highly interactive session, participants will have the opportunity to roll up their sleeves, wrestle with campus-specific disaggregated data, and discuss salient findings with their peers.

Location: Aztlan Room | **Presenter:** Dr. Jeff Gold, SJ Carter



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Tuesday, October 10 | 10:15 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.

Student Track

“Dedication is talent all on its own” Challenging the Narrative of How to be a Man of Color

This program will focus on challenging the narrative that exists for men of color in higher education by exploring the perceptions that young men of color already face and redefining them. This will happen by recognizing the power of storytelling and coupling that with innovative resourcefulness. Students will have the opportunity to network, develop a sense of professional and personal self, and redefine what it means to be a man of color for themselves.

Location: Montezuma Hall | **Presenters:** George W. Parker IV, Niko Villa, Robert Robles

How you really feeling, brother? An exercise in reflection and vulnerability

In this exercise, participants will get the opportunity to show where we all stand around issues of gender, race, and love through call and response activities (i.e. stand up if you have ever experienced racism on your campus, step to the right if you have a model or models of masculine vulnerability in your life, etc.). We will close the exercise with a somatic scanning and evaluation of the feelings sparked by the call and response activities.

Location: Legacy Suite | **Presenter:** Alejandro Banuelos

API Male Transfer Experience

Asian Pacific Islander (API) males continue to be clumped together under the monolithic and misleading Model Minority Myth which purports that all API groups have higher college success rates (i.e., transfer & degree obtainment). However disaggregated data shows that certain populations such as Southeast Asian, Pacific Islander, and Filipino males are at-risk. Join us to hear from a panel of students from different life journeys and in different stages of their academic paths. Learn how they persisted and resisted problematic stereotypes and demonstrated academic promise despite all odds.

Location: Mata'yuum Room | **Presenters:** Leland Simpliciano, Dr. Virginia Loh-Hagan, Andrew Arevalo, Ethan Concepcion



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Tuesday, October 10 | 10:15 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.

Practitioner Track

Collaborating Across Sectors and Segments: Antiracist Partnerships and Networks Creating Equitable Outcomes

There is a need for cross-campus partnerships and culturally relevant activities that increase the success for men of color at community colleges and four-year institutions. This session will review practices and partnerships established through the Men of Color Action Network. Each college will highlight men of color initiatives that they have implemented on their campuses.

Location: Union Theatre | **Presenters:** Reggie Ellis, Greg Toya

Building and Sustaining Men of Color Programs from Statewide and National Examples

This session will share examples from a statewide and national study of men of color programs. Practitioners will learn best practices for student-level programming, program/department infrastructure, and data methods to measure impact. Entry and mid-level career professionals and executive leadership are encouraged to attend to learn how best to support/invest in men of color retention programs.

Location: Templo Mayor | **Presenter:** Dr. Adrian H. Huerta

From Extinction to Distinction: Ensuring Male of Color Success through Holistic Support Strategies

Male of color enrollment, retention, and degree completion has dropped at an accelerated rate all across the CSU system as a result of lack of resources, institutional support, and the recent COVID-19 pandemic. Come learn about the strategies the Male Success Alliance has employed to evolve as program in order to make a positive impact on Male of Color Student Success Outcomes.

Location: Visionary Suite | **Presenters:** Hakeem Jubal Croom, Gerardo Cuevas

The Role of Success Coaching in Serving our YMOC Student Population

Success Coaching is an emerging practice in Higher Education and has been applied to student retention and engagement efforts. At this time, this practice is mostly implemented in First Year Experience (FYE) efforts. In this session, we will explore how the practice of Success Coaching can benefit YMOC initiatives as a method to build support, increase engagement, and increase retention.

Location: Aztlan Room | **Presenter:** Guillermo Vasquez



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Adrian H. Huerta

Adrian H. Huerta is an Assistant Professor of Education at the USC Pullias Center for Higher Education. At USC, Dr. Huerta studies boys and men of color across the K-16 educational pipeline, college access and (in)equity, and gang-involved populations. His work has been generously funded by the ECMC Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, JPB Foundation/ IRP, and more. He earned his Ph.D. and M.A. in education from UCLA and is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow with the National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation.



Alejandro Banuelos

Alejandro Banuelos grew up in Eagle Rock, Los Angeles, and fell in love with his community while studying Black Studies at Northwestern University, located in a north suburb of Chicago. He is currently organizing with Brothers, Sons, Selves, a Black and Brown coalition of eight community organizations based in LA County. He works with boys and men of color to develop their political consciousness to forge worlds without policing and prisons. Alejandro anchors his organizing in the ethics of abolition and decolonization.



Anibal Serrano

Anibal Serrano (he/él) is from South Central Los Angeles, a first-generation scholar, an alumnus of the California State University system, and a son of working-class Mexican immigrants. Anibal is a fourth-year doctoral student in political science at UC Irvine. He aspires to become a professor to support and empower students of color through his research, pedagogy, and mentorship. Anibal is passionate about building and sustaining communities of care via the centering of marginalized populations.



Andrew Arevalo

Andrew Arevalo is a Filipino American and a third-year student at San Diego State University majoring in Sociology. He is a transfer student from San Diego Mesa College. His current favorite hobbies are video editing and creating montages, which allow him to look back at his favorite memories and relive them.



Bobby Whetstone

Bobby Whetstone An alumni of Cal State Dominguez Hills with a Business Administration, Finance degree, Bobby Whetstone is a tax professional currently pursuing a master's in taxation. His entrepreneurial journey spans from running a tax practice, Airbnb real estate projects, and starting a trucking company. Outside of business, Bobby loves to travel, explore different cultures food, and listen to hip-hop.



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Brianna Harvey

Brianna Harvey is a scholar, practitioner, and Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at CSU Fullerton. Her interdisciplinary research examines the ways carceral systems utilize policies and practices to perpetuate anti-blackness and impact the lives of Black youth and their families. Dr. Harvey engages in community rooted qualitative inquiry that seeks to combat oppression by creating spaces of liberation. She received her Ph.D. in Education from UCLA, and her Master of Social Work degree from USC.



Daniel Jesus Grajeda

Daniel Jesus Grajeda is a proud community college and CSU system product. He is currently an adjunct faculty member at Norco College, where he developed and leads the Men of Color (MoC) Scholars program. Since the summer of 2020, Daniel has helped grow the program and incorporated dedicated peer mentors, an academic counselor, a success coach, a dedicated English professor, monthly cultural conversations, monthly social events, networking opportunities, general education classes, scholarship opportunities, and local college tours. Daniel received his A.A. from Norco College, his B.A. from Cal Poly Pomona and his M.S. in School Counseling from Cal Baptist University.



Dr. David C. Turner III

Dr. David C. Turner III is an Assistant Professor of Black Life and Racial Justice in the Department of Social Welfare at the Luskin School of Public Affairs at UCLA. He is also a faculty affiliate with the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies, and the Associate Director of the Million Dollar Hoods Project. He currently serves as the senior advisor to the Alliance for Boys and Men of Color - a national network of hundreds of community organizations working to build power and advance racial and gender justice. Dr. Turner has been featured in the Chronicle of Higher Education, NBC BLK, the Los Angeles Times, Spectrum 1 News, and the New York Times for his activism and applied scholarship.



Dr. Derrick R. Brooms

Dr. Derrick R. Brooms is the Executive Director of the Black Men's Research Institute and Professor of Africana Studies at Morehouse College; he is also a Senior Research Associate for the CSU YMOC Consortium and serves as a youth worker as well. His research primarily focuses on the lived experiences of Black boys and men, including their pathways to and through college, as well as Black and Latino men's college experiences.



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Ethan Concepcion

Ethan Concepcion is half-CHamoru and half-Mexican. He is a third-year student at San Diego State University majoring in History. He is a transfer student from Southwestern College where he earned his A.A. degree in History. He was born and raised in Imperial Beach then moved to Otay Ranch for high school.



Eligio Martinez Jr.

Eligio Martinez Jr. is an assistant professor in the Educational Leadership Department at Cal Poly Pomona. For the past four years, he has served a Senior Research Associate with the California State University Young Males of Color Consortium working with CSU campus partners to develop and grow male success initiatives. His research focuses on the experiences of men of color throughout the education pipeline. Dr. Martinez is also a research affiliate with Project MALES at UT, Austin where he is part of a national research collaborative focused on men of color. Prior to his academic career, Dr. Martinez served as the coordinator for the Men of Color Mentoring Program at Tarrant County College in Fort Worth, TX.



George W. Parker IV

George W. Parker IV is the Assistant Director for CSU Long Beach's Men's Success Initiative, supporting undergraduate men of color in persisting toward graduation and achieving academic success. He is an alumnus of CSU Dominguez Hills' Male Success Alliance and previously served as the Senior Program Coordinator for the Male Success Initiative at CSU Fullerton. George is currently completing his Ed.D. at CSU Fullerton, focusing on men of color retention in student affairs within the Educational Leadership Program.



Gerardo Cuevas

With over seven years of experience working in higher education, Gerardo has worked to develop an educational philosophy that aims to provide transformational education to those he serves. Gerardo seeks to create meaningful change in our communities that leads to significant positive impact. Working with first-generation students, current and former youth from the foster care system, and male students of color, he has learned that meaningful change can only happen in community. Change does not come, it is created. Looking forward to building with you and bringing this change together, YMOC community.



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Dr. Gregory J. Toya

Dr. Gregory J. Toya (he/him/his) has more than 25 years of experience in all three California public higher education systems and is the Dean of Student Affairs at Santa Ana College. Dr. Toya's expertise in serving disproportionately impacted students is demonstrated by his leadership as a former President and Treasurer of the California Council of Cultural Centers in Higher Education (CaCCCHE), managing and coordinating cultural centers at two campuses, and producing a grounded theory for cultural centers. Dr. Toya serves as the Vice-President of Strategic Initiatives for the Men of Color Action Network (MOCAN).



Guillermo Vasquez

Guillermo Vasquez is a Success Coach at Saddleback College in Mission Viejo, CA where he supports HSI Grant efforts through a Success Coaching lens. As a first-generation college student and the first in his family to earn both an undergraduate and graduate degree, he works to identify and break down barriers facing students of color in particular and all students as a whole.



Hakeem Jubal Croom

Hakeem Jubal Croom is an Educator, Author, Speaker, Husband, and Father. Hakeem received his B.A in Economics from Hampden-Sydney College and his M.A. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from Sacramento State. Hakeem has 13 years of experience as a Student Affairs practitioner, and currently serves as the Director of the Male Success Alliance at California State University, Dominguez Hills where his work focuses on eliminating access, opportunity, and equity gaps for Black and Brown Male Collegians.



Jaylan Hicks

Jaylan Hicks is an accomplished professional dedicated to fostering success and support for students. Currently serving as an Outreach and Recruitment Specialist for the Educational Opportunity Program and the Student Support Specialist for the Toro Guardian Scholars Program at California State University, Dominguez Hills, Jaylan's passion for empowering students shines through in every aspect of their work. Jaylan holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Kinesiology with a Pre-Physical Therapy option from CSUDH and is currently pursuing a Master of Science degree in Counseling (Student Development in Higher Education program), at California State University, Long Beach.

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Jeff Gold

Jeff Gold is the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Success at the California State University (CSU), the largest and most diverse higher education system in the nation. In this role, Jeff provides leadership to Graduation Initiative 2025, the CSU's signature strategic effort to facilitate the path to a high-quality college degree for an additional half million students by the year 2025. In support of this work, Jeff oversees a variety of mission-driven projects that provide faculty, staff, and administrators with innovative analytical tools to better understand the impact that their programs have on student success and equity. Jeff began his career as a bilingual public-school teacher in San Diego and has over 25 years of higher education experience in both the public and private sectors. He holds an Ed.D. in Organizational Change and Leadership from the University of Southern California and an MBA from the Escuela de Negocios Las Palmas, a business school in Spain.



Joe Louis Hernandez, Ph.D.

Joe Louis Hernandez, Ph.D. is the Director of Rising Scholars at Mt. San Antonio College. Rising Scholars focuses on supporting formerly incarcerated and directly system impacted student as they navigate community college and accomplish their educational goals. Furthermore, his research centers on the experiences of formerly incarcerated Latina/o/x students with institutional agents and how these students utilize their knowledge to become streetwise scholars. As a formerly incarcerated person his goal is to shatter the stigma surrounding incarceration.



Dr. Jonathan Henderson

Dr. Jonathan Henderson is an instructional designer, professor, and researcher with over a decade of experience advancing equity in higher education. Currently, Jonathan works as a Professor/Faculty PD Coordinator at Southwestern College and is a Lecturer in the Department of Africana-Studies at CSU Dominguez Hills. Jonathan holds an A.A. degree in Liberal Arts from MiraCosta College, BA and MA degrees in Sociology from CSU Dominguez Hills, and an Ed.D. in Community College Leadership from San Diego State University.



Leland Simpliciano

Leland Simpliciano is the Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI) Director at San Diego Mesa College. He is a first-generation college graduate and a product of the community college system. His experience as a Filipino-American has inspired his service to the Asian Pacific Islander (API) community. He's also helped in organizing male-initiative success efforts such as UCI's Challenge All Men to Prevent Sexism (CHAMPS) and the Men of Color Action Network (MOCAN) Conferences. He is currently in his third year of his Ed. D program at Morgan State University.

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Namrata Patel, Ph.D.

Namrata Patel, Ph.D. serves as the Executive Director of Research for Social Impact, Inc (RSI). She has more than 15 years of experience working in the education research field and most of her work involves evaluating programs serving minority, low-income, and first-generation college students, especially in CSUs and community colleges. In recent years, Namrata has worked with the YMOC Consortium to help campuses assess their male success initiatives so they can best support students. In addition to leading research at RSI, Namrata also teaches Research Methods at a California community college.



Niko Villa

Niko Villa, a two-time San Diego State University graduate, holds a bachelor's in Interdisciplinary Studies with a Counseling Social Change focus and a master's in Postsecondary Educational Leadership in Student Affairs. He began as an EOP Outreach Specialist and Counselor at SDSU, now serving as an EOP Counselor at CSU Long Beach. Niko, hailing from Southeast San Diego, passionately believes in education's transformative potential. He dedicates himself to helping underrepresented students, emphasizing self-care, community support, and mentorship.



Mr. Reggie Ellis

Mr. Reggie Ellis is currently the Athletic Director at Santa Monica College and President of the Men of Color Action Network (MOCAN). Prior to assuming his current position, Mr. Ellis was the Associate Dean of Student Discipline and Athletic Director at Barstow College. Mr. Ellis also served as the Interim Athletic Director/Assistant Women's Basketball Coach at El Camino College. Mr. Ellis was an assistant women's basketball coach at Claremont McKenna College, Saddleback College, Long Beach City, and Ventura College. Mr. Ellis earned a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science in Public Administration from California State University Dominguez Hills and has earned a Master of Science in Coaching and Athletic Administration from Concordia University.



Reggie Robles

Reggie Robles is the Senior Coordinator for Male Success Initiatives at Cal Poly Pomona. Throughout his tenure in higher education, he has worked in housing, cultural and identity centers, student life, engagement and retention positions. He has been able to expand funding and resources for first generation programs and students. He co-founded Dudes Understanding Diversity and Ending Stereotypes (DUDES) program for men and masculinity programming, retention and graduation purposes, and he has created campus wide co-curricular programs where students walk away with multiple certifications and skillsets. In addition, Reggie is a Ph.D. student in Higher Education at Claremont Graduate University where his research focus has been on the experiences of men of color in higher education.



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Robert Robles

Long Beach native Robert Robles boasts an associate degree from Long Beach City College and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from California State University, Long Beach. Presently pursuing a master's in counseling, he ardently champions educational equity. As both a mentor and coach, Robert passionately empowers students, striving to cultivate inclusive programs. His mission revolves around positively impacting students and pushing forward the cause of equity in education.



Saúl Valdez

Saúl Valdez serves as Senior Program Officer at ECMC Foundation. He oversees grants that increase college persistence, transfer, and bachelor degree completion for students from underserved backgrounds. He pioneered the Men of Color Initiative, a \$20M grantmaking strategy to support colleges in adopting equity-centered programs for males of color. He serves on the Board of Directors for Hispanics in Philanthropy. Saúl holds an MPA from the University of Washington and a BS in international business from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Dr. Sean James

Dr. Sean James has dedicated over 17 years of experience to higher education with the mission to instill hope & advocacy in disadvantaged communities. He received his BA in African American Studies/Social Science in 2006, and his MA in Higher Education Administration in the spring of 2011 from CSU, Northridge. He completed his Doctorate at the University of Southern California in the Educational Leadership Program, Ed.D. with a focus on Urban Education. Sean has focused his research on the experiences of students from marginalized communities throughout his academic career. Currently Sean is the Director of the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) at CSU, Dominguez Hills, and Director of Project Rebound a program that provides support services for formerly incarcerated students at CSUDH.



SJ Carter

SJ Carter As Sr. Full Stack Engineer and lead developer for the CSU Student Success Dashboards, SJ Carter takes the technical lead for building charts, graphs, and web interfaces for the innovative and industry-recognized application.

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Tyree Vance

Tyree Vance holds a dual B.A. in Psychology and Human Development from CSU, San Bernardino and a M.S. in Higher Education from CSU, Fullerton where he later became the inaugural Senior Program Coordinator of the Male Success Initiative-Fullerton at CSU, Fullerton. Vance went on to become the inaugural Senior Coordinator of The LEAGUE and Project SUCCESS, a male success initiative for developing men of color at Cal Poly Pomona. Vance's work is driven by providing a counternarrative to the thoughts and beliefs that limit people in their lives and create alignment with their personal and professional vision.



Uriel Serrano, Ph.D.

Uriel Serrano, Ph.D. is a youth worker, professor, and sociologist of inequality and resistance from South Central Los Angeles. He is the son of Mexican immigrants from Durango, Mexico, who made South Central their home. Born and raised in a Baldwin Hills neighborhood known colloquially as The Jungles, he graduated from Dorsey High School. Uriel earned a BA and MA from California State University, Los Angeles while a youth worker in Los Angeles County. Uriel recently earned his Ph.D. in Sociology and Critical Race and Ethnic Studies and is a Postdoctoral Scholar in Community Organizing and Social Computing at UC Irvine. He is currently working on his first book, Policing Youth, where he attends to the scale and pace of criminalization and policing in Los Angeles. Uriel is a self-proclaimed quesadilla expert and avid wrestling fan.



Valerie Gomez

Valerie Gomez is the granddaughter and daughter of Salvadoran immigrants, a first-generation college graduate, and a fifth-year Ph.D. candidate in education studies at the University of California. Her research examines how race, ethnicity, gender, and immigration status mediate the academic experiences of Latine students in higher education. Valerie is also the founder of @latinagradguide, a social impact venture that provides a community of support for Latinas in higher education.



Dr. Virginia Loh-Hagan

Dr. Virginia Loh-Hagan is the inaugural Director of the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Center at San Diego State University. She is also the Co-Executive Director of The Asian American Education Project and an author of over 400 publications, mostly children's books about APIDA topics. She is a former teacher educator and K-8 teacher. She is committed to teaching APIDA histories and narratives.



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