

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Friday, February 10, 2012

MEETING AGENDA

1. **Welcome**

2. **Federal Education Landscape:**

Guest Speakers

- **The Honorable Xavier Becerra, 31st Congressional District**
- **Jenny Paul-Rappaport**, Senior Policy Analyst for Preschool California
- **Edgar Zazueta**, Director for the Office of Government Relations, LAUSD
- **Kim Suzanne Kovacs**, Executive Director Federal Relations, UCLA
- **Robert Sainz**, Assistant General Manager, Operations
City of L.A. Community Development Department

3. **Informational Items**

- ACCESS Washington D.C. – Los Angeles on the Hill
- 2012 Federal Education Policy Agenda: Draft
- Student Financial Aid Profile
- Student Aid Alliance Article
- LAO Analysis of 2012-13 Prop 98 Budget

4. **Next Meeting:** Friday, April, 13th – 10-11:30 a.m.



Los Angeles Area
Chamber of Commerce

The Honorable Xavier Becerra U.S. House of Representatives

First elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1992, Representative Xavier Becerra serves as Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus, is a member of the powerful Committee on Ways and Means and is Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security. His committee is responsible for formulating our nation's tax, Social Security, Medicare, trade and income security laws. He has dedicated himself to promoting issues affecting industries critical to the economic vitality of the Southern California region such as health care, high technology, entertainment, and stimulating free, yet fair, trade.

The first Latino to serve on the Ways and Means Committee, Rep. Becerra has used his position to increase opportunities for working families, to improve the Social Security program for women and minorities, to combat poverty among the working poor, and to strengthen Medicare and ensure its long-term viability. He currently serves on the Oversight and Social Security Subcommittees. In 2010, Rep. Becerra served on the bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform.

In addition to his Congressional duties, Rep. Becerra enjoys his service as a board member for several respected institutions, including the Close Up Foundation, the nation's largest youth civic education organization that brings more than 25,000 students and teachers to Washington, D.C., annually; and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, which provides scholarships and internship opportunities for the next generation of Latino leaders.

Prior to his election to Congress, Rep. Becerra served one term in the California Legislature as the representative of the 59th Assembly District in Los Angeles County. He is a former Deputy Attorney General with the California Department of Justice. The congressman began his legal career in 1984 working in a legal services office representing the mentally ill.

Rep. Becerra earned his Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Stanford University. He was awarded his Juris Doctorate from Stanford Law School in 1984. Rep. Becerra is married to Dr. Carolina Reyes. They are the proud parents of three daughters: Clarisa, Olivia and Natalia.



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Jenny Paul-Rappaport
Senior Policy Analyst
Preschool California

Jenny Paul-Rappaport is the Senior Policy Analyst for Preschool California. Paul-Rappaport works to ensure that California's early learning programs continue to improve their efficiency and effectiveness and to ensure that California's unique voice is heard at the federal level to expand access to high-quality early learning programs. Prior to joining Preschool California, Paul-Rappaport served as Policy Analyst for the Advancement Project working on state early learning policy and K-12 school facilities issues, and at the National Organization for Women on economic policy. She holds a Masters degree in Public Policy from UC Berkeley and a Bachelors degree in Physics from Brown University.



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Edgar Zazueta
Director for the Office of Government Relations
Los Angeles Unified School District

Edgar Zazueta currently serves as the Director for the Office of Government Relations for the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). His duties include representing Los Angeles Unified on the state and federal level. Prior to this appointment, Edgar was a Legislative Consultant for State Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny (D-SD).

Edgar's advocacy for LAUSD comes from a number valuable experiences working in Washington DC. After completing his undergraduate degree, Edgar was one of twenty individuals selected nationwide to participate in the CHCI Fellowship program. While in Washington DC, Edgar worked for the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. In this capacity, he traveled around the country collecting data in various Latino communities and assisted in the development of an advisory report that was presented to President Bush on the status "Hispanic Education". While an undergraduate student, Edgar also spent a summer working in the Washington D.C. office of Governor Gray Davis.

In 2003, Edgar was selected to participate in the prestigious California Senate Fellows Program in Sacramento.

A native of Southern California, Edgar received his Bachelors Degree in Political Science from the California State University, Fullerton and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Southern California. Edgar currently resides in Sacramento, CA where his job consists of representing LAUSD before the California Legislature. He resides with his partner, Michelle, and daughter Evah Natalia.



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Kim Suzanne Kovacs
Executive Director
Federal Relations, UCLA

Kim Suzanne Kovacs is the Executive Director of Federal Relations at UCLA. In this capacity, she oversees the university's interactions in Washington, D.C., with Congress, executive branch agencies, the White House, and higher education associations. Kim has served on the campus Task Force on the Protection of Faculty Research and Researchers, the University of California systemwide Work Group on Non-Competitive Funding and the Work Group on lobbying disclosure and reporting.

Kim is co-chair elect of the Executive Committee of the Council on Governmental Affairs of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU). She also chairs the Immigration Task Force for the Council on Federal Relations of the Association of American Universities (AAU).

Prior to returning to her hometown, Kim worked in Washington, D.C., for the private publishing company the Bureau of National Affairs (now Bloomberg BNA). She also served as Assistant Budget Director for the White House Conference on Small Business and as a Special Assistant to the Chairman of the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board.

Kim holds a B.A. in History from UCLA. Her community activities include serving as Vice President of the Board of Directors for PVJobs, a non-profit organization providing job placement opportunities for disadvantaged adults and youth. Kim managed the Pacoima Middle School site, the largest site of the 2011 UCLA Volunteer Day. She is also on the executive board of the World Alliance for Israel Political Action Committee.



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Robert Sainz
Assistant General Manager, Operations
City of L.A. Community Development Department

Robert Sainz serves as the Assistant General Manager, Operations, for the City of Los Angeles Community Development Department. Over the last six years in this position, he has been instrumental in the reorganizing the department, reinventing the Workforce Development System, establishing the Family Source System, and the founding of the Los Angeles Youth Opportunity Movement. Through his work, he manages over \$100 million in public agency grant funds. More importantly, he has impacted thousands of young people and adults to return to school, enter employment, and start a career.

Sainz has nearly 20 years of public service experience, specifically in local government. Throughout his career in public service, he has addressed many difficult social problems facing our community's low-income residents, including juvenile delinquency; youth and adult unemployment; and poverty. Sainz was previously the Executive Director of the Los Angeles Youth Opportunity Movement, which provides educational, vocational, and career opportunities for over 3500 young people ages 14-21.

Sainz worked as the Probation Director for the Los Angeles County Probation Department in 1992 where he managed the Department's Community Relations and Communications Office. Sainz is the past Chairperson of the Violence Prevention Coalition of Los Angeles and past Chairperson of Helpline Youth Counseling, a community-based organization. He is a Board Trustee and past president of US Conference of Mayor's Workforce Development Council. He has received numerous awards and recognition for his work including the Durfee Foundation's Stanton Fellowship.

Sainz received his BA degree from UC Santa Cruz, and his MPA from Columbia University, and post-graduate work from the University of Southern California. He has three children, Anthony, Paula, and Michael.



ACCESS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
LOS ANGELES ON THE HILL
March 5-7, 2012

DRAFT ADVOCACY AGENDA
2/07/12

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Early Education

Invest in Early Learning

Support maximizing federal funding opportunities that will strengthen quality early education in California and prepare a 21st century workforce. Continued funding for the Race to the Top (RTTT) -Early Learning Challenge, Head Start, Early Head Start and the Child Care and Development Block Grant will help sustain and grow high-quality early education programs in LA.

Incorporate Early Childhood Education in Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)

Support efforts to include and align early learning in ESEA, including continuing the RTTT – Early Learning Challenge, to ensure that children begin school fully prepared. Efforts to coordinate and integrate early learning and the K-12 system will help develop a seamless alignment.

K-12

Pass Reauthorization of Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)

Support reauthorization of ESEA, including the development of high-quality standards and performance-based assessments that embrace 21st century skills in order to ensure that students are college ready and prepared for the workforce. Support the shift from a prescriptive federal compliance orientation to clear goals that will maintain accountability for all students while granting needed flexibility.

Institute Linked Learning to Lower Drop Out Rates and Improve College and Career Readiness

Support linked learning programs that bring together academics, technical education and real world experience in order to reduce dropout rates and better prepare students for college and career. Support the incorporation of linked learning into ESEA. Education for Tomorrow's Jobs Act (H.R. 3154, Thompson) and the Senate companion bill (S. 1686, Casey) will help strengthen the transition from high school to postsecondary education. Additionally, support federal leadership and policy that incentivizes stakeholders for committing to bold, shared agendas for significant reform on student achievement.



ACCESS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

LOS ANGELES ON THE HILL

March 5-7, 2012

Prevent Harmful Cuts to ESEA, IDEA and other Education Programs

Congress must enact a balanced deficit reduction plan in order to prevent education programs from being cut under sequestration by 9.1% on January 2, 2013. Unless stopped, sequestration will slash Title I grants to high-poverty schools will be slashed by \$1.3 billion and IDEA special education state grants by over \$1 billion, while also cutting funds for teacher quality grants, English Language Acquisition grants and after school programs.

Higher Education

Maintain Investments in Federal Financial Aid Programs

Invest in increased access to college and challenge higher education institutions to improve affordability and student success outcomes. As businesses must invest wisely for the future, so must our nation make the investments in intellectual capital. Priorities include maintaining the current Pell grant maximum award of \$5,550, maintaining investments in student aid and support programs (TRIO and GEAR UP), making permanent the American Opportunity Tax Credit, passing the Federal Dream Act as a key component of CIR, maintaining the current Subsidized Stafford Loan interest rate at 3.4%.

Workforce Development

Invest in Federal Workforce Development Programs

A skilled and competitive workforce is critical for businesses to grow. State and local employer-led workforce investment boards (WIBs) are a valued partner in this effort. We must continue investment in efficient and effective programs critical to bolstering the economy and getting people back to work. Priorities include: investments in federal workforce development programs; supporting the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act that focuses on demand-driven, business-led WIBs; and supporting investments in youth job training programs.

Invest in Workforce Development Programs and Jobs for Returning Veterans

We must provide the services to assist in reintegrating eligible veterans into meaningful employment within the labor force and to stimulate the development of an effective service delivery system that will address the complex employability problems facing veterans. Priorities include: supporting the implementation of the "Gold Card" to provide unemployed post-9/11 era veterans with intensive and follow-up services; increasing investments in veteran workforce development programs; and continuation of regional "Hire our Heroes" job fairs.

Legislative Analyst Office

2012-13 Budget: Prop 98 Education Analysis

Executive Summary

This report analyzes the Governor's 2012-13 Proposition 98 budget package. The report provides detailed assessments of the Governor's: (1) basic budget plan (which assumes passage of his November 2012 ballot measure to raise certain taxes temporarily), (2) major policy proposals, (3) multiyear plan to retire existing education obligations, and (4) back-up budget plan (in the event his ballot measure fails).

Governor's Basic Budget Plan

Paying Down Deferrals Makes Sense. The largest component of the Governor's basic plan is to pay down \$2.4 billion in K-14 payment deferrals. If the state has additional Proposition 98 resources to spend in 2012-13, we think paying down these deferrals is reasonable. This would not only help reduce the significant cash management challenges now facing districts but also would be less disruptive than programmatic cuts were the tax measure to fail.

Major Policy Proposals

Recommend Replacing Seriously Flawed Mandate System With Block Grant. The Governor's budget proposes to eliminate more than half of education mandates and fund remaining mandated activities within a \$200 million discretionary block grant. The state's existing mandate system has serious flaws, and we think a block grant approach would help overcome many of them. We recommend the Legislature adopt the block grant approach and create a working group to address implementation details over the next few months.

Recommend Fundamental Restructuring of State's K-12 Funding Model. The Governor proposes major changes to the way the state allocates funding to districts. Because the state's current K-12 funding system is complex and inequitable, we recommend the Legislature adopt some version of the Governor's proposal. While we think his specific proposal for a weighted student formula has many strengths, we believe the Legislature should consider some modifications to ensure fundamental state priorities are preserved. Most importantly, we recommend the Legislature preserve some assurances that districts dedicate additional resources toward their disadvantaged students.

Recommend Expanding Categorical Flexibility for Community Colleges. The Governor proposes to consolidate all funding for community college categorical programs into one discretionary "flex item." We agree that community colleges would benefit from more categorical flexibility but offer two alternative approaches for the Legislature to consider—a somewhat more limited version of the Governor's flex item or combining categorical programs into two block grants. Either of these alternatives would enhance local flexibility while still ensuring that the funds continue to be spent on support services for students and faculty.

Recommend Package of Changes to Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and Preschool Programs. The Governor proposes canceling initiation of a new TK program. He also proposes to notably reduce funding and slots in the state's preschool program. Because some of the affected populations would be the same, we believe the Legislature may want to consider these proposals in tandem. We recommend the Legislature focus limited resources on serving the four-year olds who could most

benefit from a state-subsidized preschool program. This includes immediately adopting the Governor's proposal not to initiate the TK program, but preserving—to the degree budgetary resources allow—the state's current investment in providing preschool services.

Multiyear Plan to Retire Education “Wall of Debt”

Governor's Plan Is Solid Starting Point. The Governor's package contains a multiyear plan for retiring certain education obligations. We think building such a plan is a prudent practice. We recommend, however, the Legislature consider extending the payment period, scheduling out payments more evenly, designating settle-up funds be used for mandates or deferrals, and redirecting Quality Education Investment Act program savings (with first call to retire Emergency Repair Program obligations). Although the Legislature will need to modify this plan if conditions change, having a plan in place is critical to ensure progress in retiring such large outstanding obligations.

Back-Up Budget Plan

Two Notable Concerns With Governor's Back-up Plan. If the Governor's tax measure is not approved by voters, the Governor proposes \$5.4 billion in midyear trigger cuts. Of this amount, \$4.8 billion, or 90 percent, would come from Proposition 98 cuts. To achieve these savings, the Governor begins funding K-14 debt service payments within Proposition 98. We have serious policy concerns with this proposal. Because debt service payments are volatile, the proposal would result in notably greater volatility for education programs. Absent a clear, compelling policy rationale, we question why the state would want to change its longstanding facility funding practices, particularly when the change results in a significant cut in programmatic funding. The Governor's back-up plan also excludes the 2011-realignment related sales tax revenue from the Proposition 98 calculations. We believe such treatment is risky. If the realignment revenues were to count toward the guarantee, the guarantee would increase roughly by \$1.7 billion. As a result, the Governor's back-up plan would need to be modified—either by suspending the guarantee or by funding the higher guarantee and implementing \$1.7 billion in reductions in other areas of the budget.

Consider Several Factors When Developing Back-up Plan. Most districts likely will base their local budgets on the state's back-up plan. Given this, the Legislature needs to be very deliberate in developing such a plan. If the Legislature decided to enact midyear cuts, it would need to identify a target level of savings, decide how best to allocate cuts among education and non-education programs, determine the specific K-14 cuts to impose, and design tools to help districts respond. Alternatively, the Legislature could adopt a plan that made cuts up front and then provided midyear spending increases if the tax measure passed. It could designate the new revenues for one-time investments in 2012-13 and then build them into the base budget in 2013-14.

Provide Districts More Flexibility Given All the Uncertainty They Face in 2012-13. We recommend the Legislature give districts some flexibility tools (effective July 1) for the coming year. We offer a number of options, including removing additional categorical and mandate requirements, shortening the school year, suspending the number of full-time faculty that community colleges must employ, and allowing for a special post-election layoff window.

Federal Student Financial Aid

- Pell Grants: The Pell Grant program is a need-based grant program for students who otherwise cannot afford to attend college. For the current academic year, the maximum Pell grant award is \$5,550.
- Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOGs): SEOG is a matching grant program that provides supplemental aid to low-income students with a priority for Pell Grant recipients.
- Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) Program: The LEAP Program provides grants to states to assist them in providing need-based grants and community service work-study assistance to eligible postsecondary students.
- Federal Work-Study (FWS): FWS is a campus-based program that provides part-time jobs for undergraduate and graduate students who need to earn money to finance their education. Federal funds cover a percentage of student wages with the balance being paid by the individual campus or the employer.
- Perkins Loans: The Federal Perkins loan program provides low-interest loans to help both undergraduate and graduate students with exceptional need finance the costs of postsecondary education.