CHRISTOPHER CABALDON

Mayor in Residence, Institute for the Future

Christopher Cabaldon is a partner at Capitol Impact, Senior Fellow at the Center for Digital Government, and Mayor in Residence at the Institute for the Future. He was appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate to three terms as California’s delegate to the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education. He served as Chief Consultant to the Assembly Higher Education Committee and then Chief of Staff to the Assembly Appropriations Committee chair, before joining the California Community Colleges as Vice Chancellor for Policy, Planning & External Affairs. He was CEO of EdVoice and then the Linked Learning Alliance. Cabaldon was later appointed to the tenured faculty at Sacramento State University as Hazel Cramer Endowed Chair and Professor of Public Policy & Administration. Cabaldon became Mayor of West Sacramento in 1998 and served as chair of Jobs, Education and Workforce for the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Cabaldon was inaugural chair of the national LGBTQ Mayors Alliance, and chair of both the Asian-Pacific and LGBT caucuses of the League of California Cities.

PETER TAYLOR

President, ECMC Foundation

Peter Taylor has been the president of ECMC Foundation since 2014. During his tenure, he has overseen more than $250 million of grants and PRI investments in initiatives affecting higher education outcomes, especially among underserved student populations. The major area of focus for the Foundation has been career and technical education. Before joining ECMC Foundation, Taylor served as executive vice president and chief financial officer for the University of California system. Most of Taylor’s professional career was in investment banking, with nearly 16 years in municipal finance banking for Lehman Brothers and Barclays Capital, where he was managing director for the West Coast Fixed Income Group. Before obtaining his master’s degree, he spent six years on the legislative staff of the California State Assembly Majority Leader working at the state capitol in Sacramento.

ELIZABETH GONZALEZ

Chief Program & Strategy Officer, College Futures Foundation

Elizabeth Gonzalez is a long-time philanthropy professional working for national, state, and regional foundations in support of advancing intergenerational mobility and public-sector systems change strategies. She joined College Futures Foundation in 2019. As chief program & strategy officer, Elizabeth works closely with the CEO to manage the development and implementation of the Foundation’s strategy. Previously, Elizabeth was a portfolio director at The James Irvine Foundation, where she oversaw education and workforce portfolio – the Better Careers initiative, postsecondary success grantmaking, and Linked Learning, Irvine’s effort to integrate academic and career-technical education for better student outcomes in high schools throughout California. Prior to her work at the Irvine Foundation, González was a postsecondary success program officer at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation overseeing a national portfolio of municipal partnerships for college success. A first-generation college graduate, Elizabeth earned a B.A. from Columbia University, and a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles, with a focus on poverty, economic mobility, and social policy. She currently is a member of the board for Grantmakers for Education, Public Policy Institute of California’s Statewide Leadership Council and USC’s Center for Philanthropy and Public Policy.

CHRIS FERGUSON

Program Budget Manager, Department of Finance

Chris Ferguson is a Program Budget Manager at the California Department of Finance, where he leads the office’s team of experts covering the early education, K-12 education, and higher education. He has worked at the Department of Finance since 2007 in various roles responsible for budgetary investments including but not limited to the development of the Local Control Funding Formula, the Student Centered Funding Formula, and the expanded community college Cal Grant entitlement.

KEELY MARTIN BOSLER

Principal and Founder, KeelyMB Strategies

Keely Martin Bosler has spent the past 22 years working in California state government primarily on issues related to the state’s budget. After over a decade working in the California State Legislature, including serving as Staff Director for the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, she was appointed by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. to serve in several posts, including Chief Deputy Director of Finance, Cabinet Secretary, and Director of Finance. As Cabinet Secretary she was responsible for collaborating with 11 government agencies and over 70 departments to solve problems, manage crises and implement the Governor’s policy agenda. She was reappointed Director of Finance by Governor Gavin Newsom in 2018 and served as director the majority of Newsom’s first term as Governor, through the Covid-19 Pandemic and associated recession. At Finance she led the development of four budgets for the 5th largest economy in the world and led negotiations on a final budget agreement with the State Legislature. The final budget she developed and negotiated was over $300 billion.