

CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP



**THE CSU ACADEMIC CONFERENCE
AND RETREAT 2017**
Hosted by Chancellor Timothy P. White
February 9–10, 2017

San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive, San Diego, CA





WELCOME



TIMOTHY P. WHITE
Chancellor

On behalf of the California State University and its students, faculty, and staff, we welcome you to the 2017 Academic Conference. This year's conference continues a tradition of community building within the CSU by bringing together members of the Board of Trustees, administrative, faculty and student leaders from the CSU campuses, system administrators, state legislators and others for formal and informal dialogue, reflection, creative strategizing and long-term planning.

This year's theme, "Closing the Achievement Gap," acknowledges the CSU's central mission to provide access to higher education for every eligible student in the state, irrespective of background, and its commitment to diversity, inclusivity, excellence and success at every level.

Intentionally designed to differentiate itself from other system-wide gatherings, the conference is an invitation to think outside the box, to dream bigger, and to share this community's diverse talents and insights to internally strengthen the CSU.

We encourage you to take full advantage of the unique opportunities afforded by the Academic Conference, and we trust that you will find the experience educational, enriching and inspirational.



AGENDA



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2017 • Aztec Student Union

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm
Registration and Reception

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Welcome and Opening Remarks, Dinner

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2017 • Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center

7:45 am – 8:45 am
Registration and Breakfast

8:45 am – 10:30 am
Speaker Presentation by Diane Ravitch

10:30 am – 10:50 am
Refreshment Break

10:50 am – 12:00 pm
Breakout Sessions

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Lunch

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
Speaker presentation by Tia Brown McNair

2:30 pm – 2:50 pm
Refreshment Break

2:50 pm – 4:00 pm
Breakout Sessions

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Panel Discussion

5:00 pm
Adjourn



SPEAKERS



DIANE RAVITCH

“A better-educated populace is a wise investment in the future of our society.”

Dr. Diane Ravitch is a champion of public schools across the country. Drawing on over 40 years of research and experience, Ravitch is the nation’s leading advocate for public education. Her years of experience working in the government shaped her approach to education, and gave her a unique and powerful perspective which she brings into all aspects of her work. A prolific writer and a renowned research professor of education at New York University, Ravitch has published more than 500 articles and reviews for scholarly and popular publications. Her blog is one of the primary destinations for American educators, which has received more than 20 million page views since 2012.

Ravitch provides solutions. In her books, she provides a clear plan for how to preserve and improve our public schools. Her New York Times bestseller, *Reign of Error: The Hoax of the Privatization Movement and the Danger to America’s Public Schools* begins where her previous book, *The Death and Life of the Great American School System* left off. Ravitch continues to show that the crisis in American education is not a result of a crisis of academic achievement, but a result of the destruction of public schools. In a chapter-by-chapter breakdown, Ravitch teaches what is working in U.S. education and how policymakers are failing to address the root cause of educational failure. Finally, Ravitch shows readers how it can, in fact, be fixed.

Ravitch shares the hard message that every parent, teacher and community needs to support public schools, or else our society will fail all children. A public school graduate herself, this award winning educator’s depth of knowledge and experience shines through her passionate speeches. Ravitch has developed a powerful argument against the privatization of public schools, and she will take audiences step-by-step through the triumphs and failures of the American public school system. With her electrifying wisdom, Ravitch leaves audiences informed, motivated and ultimately inspired.

Dr. Ravitch will deliver a provocative speech on the conference theme of ‘Closing the Achievement Gap’ in the California State University.



SPEAKERS



TIA BROWN MCNAIR

“Campus educators [must] understand and value the assets that students bring to educational experiences. . . to better meet the needs of students, whatever they may be.”

Dr. Tia Brown McNair is Vice President in the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Student Success at Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) in Washington, DC. She oversees both funded projects and AAC&U’s continuing programs on equity, inclusive excellence, high-impact educational practices, and student success, including AAC&U’s Network for Academic Renewal series of yearly working conferences. McNair also directs AAC&U’s Summer Institute on High-Impact Educational Practices and Student Success. McNair serves as the project director for several AAC&U LEAP initiatives, including “Advancing Roadmaps for Community College Leadership to Improve Student Learning and Success,” “Committing to Equity and Inclusive Excellence: Campus-Based Strategies for Student Success,” “Advancing Underserved Student Success through Faculty Intentionality in Problem-Centered Learning” and a newly-funded effort “Purposeful Pathways: Faculty Planning and Curricular Coherence.”

McNair chaired AAC&U’s Equity Working Group that was part of the General Education Maps and Markers (GEMs) project that represented a large-scale, systematic effort to provide “design principles” for 21st-century learning and long-term student success. She is the lead author of the book *Becoming a Student-Ready College: A New Culture of Leadership for Student Success* (July 2016). McNair is a co-author on the publication *Assessing Underserved Students’ Engagement in High-Impact Practices*. McNair earned her doctorate in higher education administration from George Washington University.

Dr. McNair states that a well-documented gap exists between the nation’s need for more college graduates to fuel a global, innovation-driven economy and the current level of postsecondary credential attainment. Not only is there a need to close achievement gaps among student populations to ensure that more graduates—especially students from underserved populations—are learning the most important skills essential for success and flourishing in today’s world, but also a need to fully engage faculty in efforts to address these equity gaps. By building faculty development and leadership models for designing guided learning pathways that advance equity, quality, and inclusive excellence, institutions are addressing essential components for advancing educational practices and policies that will promote student success and systemic, sustainable change.

Dr. McNair will raise critical questions and examine evidence-based strategies for committing to equity, quality, and inclusive excellence.

