



College of Education
**Center for Equity and
Postsecondary Attainment**

College of Education
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Press Release

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The SDSU Center for Equity and Postsecondary Attainment Hosts Second Annual National School Counselor Summit

The Center for Equity and Postsecondary Attainment (CEPA) proudly held the second annual National School Counselor Summit at the San Diego State University (SDSU) Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center June 7-8, 2024, drawing over 60 attendees from multiple states across the country. The event featured keynote speakers, an awards luncheon, dinner, and highlighted the work of the national school counseling fellows and their leadership/advocacy projects.

CEPA is committed to creating systems that celebrate and center diverse voices while dismantling practices and policies that marginalize or oppress any group or individual. Guided by research and scholarship, CEPA focuses on college and career advising systems that increase equitable and accessible pathways to postsecondary success for all students.

The National School Counselor Fellowship comprises practicing school counselors, college advisors, and career specialists from across the United States who commit to a two-year fellowship. This fellowship involves monthly meetings, peer consultation, and dedicated time for research, scholarship, professional development, and time identifying the systems level issues impacting student postsecondary success. The fellowship emphasizes centering student voices, increasing parent engagement, and community building.

Featured speakers of this year's summit included Tamara Y. Craver, President and CEO of Reality Changers, Jarian Kerekes, Head of Social Impact and Community Engagement, Equitable Foundation, Chantelle George, Ph.D., Founder of CG Consulting, and Ashley Johnson from the Kresge Foundation.

CEPA is honored to be supported by the Kresge Foundation. Ashley Johnson, Program Officer at the Kresge Foundation, remarked, "I really think the movement of college access moves through high school counselors across the country. The work that you do matters and I know you have a lot on



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your plate, but I encourage you to keep going because a lot of students are depending on you.” The event was also supported by the Equitable Foundation, the charitable giving arm of Equitable, a leading financial services provider. Jarian Kerekes, President and Head of Social Impact and Community Engagement at Equitable stated, “Our partnership with the SDSU CEPA fellows program is another key lever Equitable Foundation leverages to create more equity in postsecondary attainment. The key learnings and best practices that originate from this group will allow us to continue to scale and have more impact in the communities and schools we serve.”

During the luncheon awards ceremony, graduating fellows were recognized for their participation and commitment to their school communities and advocacy efforts. The ultimate goal of the fellowship is to foster a collaborative and empowering environment where school counselors, college access partners, and students can unite to share best practices and champion transformative postsecondary advising practices that ensure success for every student.

For more information about the National School Counselor Fellowship, please contact Laura Owen, Executive Director, SDSU Center for Equity and Postsecondary Attainment Lowen@sdsu.edu

