



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

College of Education
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Press Release

July 23, 2024

The *Center for Equity and Postsecondary Attainment* (CEPA) is excited to welcome the 2024-2026 National School Counselor Fellow Cohort. The NSCF program will focus on preparing fellows to apply a practice-based approach to address the pandemic's impact on student's educational pathways.

The 2024-2026 cohort includes school counselors, scholars, advocates, and professional leaders throughout the US. The fellows represent the Georgia 2023 School Counselor of the Year (Gabrielle Brundie), President of the Louisiana School Counselor Association (Dr. Bernell Elzey), and the 2024 NBCC Propelling Mental Health, Powering the Future: School Counseling recipient (Denise Hawkins). The fellows is a group of school counseling practitioners that represent diverse communities and professional experiences. SC fellows will expand their capacity to serve as leaders as they inform and guide the postsecondary trajectories of all students by ensuring that students are socially, academically, logistically, and financially prepared for life beyond high school.

SC Fellows will receive professional development, supervision, and training that embrace equity driven leadership and advocacy practices that support college and career readiness and postsecondary planning. Additionally, through the exploration of ways systems of oppression, implicit bias, and internalized racism impacts postsecondary access, the fellows will develop their understanding of anti-racist postsecondary advising, enrollment, and persistence. Specifically, the fellows will explore problems of practice that will inform the development of their advocacy projects.

The 2024-2026 National School Counselor Fellows are:

- Amari Benlevi (Georgia)
- Gabrielle Brundidge (Georgia)
- Dr. Elin Peinado Cervantes (California)
- Dr. Bernell Elzey (Louisiana)
- James Harris (Maryland)
- Denise Hawkins (Georgia)
- Shannon Johnson (Louisiana)
- Katie Mitchell-Dodge (Arizona)
- Brittany Paul (Texas)
- Mia Tatum-Crider (Wisconsin)
- Alejandra Vega (California)

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY BAKERSFIELD CHANNEL ISLANDS CHICO DOMINQUEZ HILLS EAST BAY
FRESNO FULLERTON HUMBOLDT LONG BEACH LOS ANGELES MARITIME ACADEMY NORTHRIDGE POMONA
SACRAMENTO SAN BERNARDINO SAN DIEGO SAN FRANCISCO SAN JOSE SAN LUIS OBISPO SAN MARCOS SONOMA
STANISLAUS



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Read their bios: <https://education2.sdsu.edu/cepa/nscf>

About the Center for Equity and Postsecondary Attainment

Led by Dr. Laura Owen, San Diego State University and Dr. Diana Camilo, CSU San Bernardino, the Center for Equity and Postsecondary Attainment aims to improve equitable student postsecondary opportunity, particularly through the discovery of counseling and advising systems, processes and interventions that elevate the voices of historically oppressed and marginalized communities. Its goals include ensuring that all school-based systems, policies, and practices are intentional in addressing oppression, implicit bias, racism and all forms of marginalization. CEPA builds on the [SDSU White House Convening \[2014\]](#) which supported Michelle Obama's [Reach Higher](#) campaign focused on increasing equitable and accessible pathways to postsecondary success for all students, especially those who face formidable barriers.

For questions and additional inquiries, please contact the *Center for Equity and Postsecondary Attainment* at cepa@sdsu.edu or (619) 594-5814.

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