Executive Director Message

It’s another busy Spring at the Center, with Fellows interviews and LegiSchool internships coming up, and with planning underway for the 2014 Envisioning California conference. We have numerous other events and activities scheduled for this summer and fall, and I hope you keep checking the “upcoming events” page on our website. I’m especially pleased to announce we resurrected the Center’s work on the State Government Oral History Program. The program conducts oral interviews with notable retired state officials, and deposits the transcribed oral histories with the California State Archives. The program ended in the 1990s as a result of state budget cuts, but we recently were able to secure generous support from the California State Senate and the CSU Chancellor’s Office to produce an oral history of Bill Hauck. As many of you know, Bill held key staff positions with two Assembly speakers and two governors, served on the CSU Board of Trustees for over two decades, and held a number of other key leadership roles in our state. We completed interviews with Bill shortly before his untimely death in March. Bill’s oral history is being transcribed and will be available this summer. Meanwhile, we’re working to secure ongoing funding to continue producing oral histories that capture the many stories, experiences, insights, and lessons from California’s public officials. Thank you for your continued interest in the good work of the Center. I welcome your comments and suggestions at any time. ~ Steve Boilard

For more information on the Center for California Studies and the 25th annual Envisioning California Conference please visit: csus.edu/calst.html

SAVE THE DATE: 25th Annual Envisioning California Conference
Friday, October 3, 2014 at the Sacramento Public Library Tsakopoulos Galleria

MOVING ON: Transforming Transportation in California

Join us, Friday, October 3rd, 2014, at the Sacramento Public Library, Tsakopoulos Galleria, for the 25th Annual Envisioning California Conference - Moving On: Transforming Transportation in California. In the tradition of past Envisioning California Conferences, this conference will include an accessible and open forum where policy makers, academics, students, community activists, business people and those who are interested in California studies, will discuss California in its many facets. This year’s conference will focus on how transportation has shaped us, and the challenges and policy options we are facing for the future. With over 800 miles of coastline and 160,000 square miles of land, California has enormous challenges to move its people and transport its goods, and conference panel topics will include discussions on infrastructure, security, the environment, transportation’s influence on California’s population, and of course, California’s love affair with the car. Registration information and more details coming soon! We hope you will save the date and join us in October for this exciting event!
The LegiSchool Project: Spring Update

This spring, LegiSchool hosted several exciting opportunities for students. Our 18th annual legislative summit was a hit, with 10 winning essayists traveling to the Capitol to talk with lawmakers about the topic of gun control. Our spring town hall focused on college readiness, with 120 students in attendance from Marysville and the Bay Area.

The LegiSchool Project has an equally exciting summer planned. We are currently accepting submissions for our annual photo contest: California Through My Eyes. We are also getting ready for the Real World Civics Summer Internship. From June 19th – July 25th, participating students will gain real-world experience in all three branches of government. The internship provides Sacramento area Juniors and Seniors an experiential learning opportunity that is truly one of a kind!

For more information on the LegiSchool Project please visit: csus.edu/calst/legischool_project.html

Former Fellow Profile: Daniel Zingale, Assembly Fellow 1985-86

“I started my fellowship with one assembly member and switched mid way to another (Gray Davis) who went on to become Governor. At the time, I didn’t know a one-year fellowship in the legislature would lead to 8 years working for two governors. My advice to today’s fellows is be open to change and expect the unexpected.”

Daniel Zingale -- a 1985-86 Assembly Fellow in the office of Gray Davis -- is senior vice president at the California Endowment, the state’s largest private health foundation, where he champions the rights of all Californians, regardless of immigration status, to preventive health. Born and raised in Sacramento, Daniel was the youngest delegate in the nation elected at the age of 19 to attend the 1980 Democratic National Convention on behalf of Senator Edward Kennedy’s campaign for president. After the Kennedy campaign, he earned degrees from Berkeley and Harvard, taking time off in between to live and work in Tokyo, Japan from 1983 - 1985. Daniel returned from Cambridge to manage Gray Davis’ campaign for state controller and was appointed deputy controller and chief of staff to Davis before the age of 30. Daniel then spent the decade of the 1990s in Washington, DC where he was political director of the human rights campaign, executive director of AIDS Action, and a member of the executive committee of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. In those roles, he worked closely with Senator Kennedy and President Clinton on prevention-centered health policy and civil rights. In 2000, Daniel returned to California as founding director of the state’s Department of Managed Health Care and in 2003 was appointed secretary of Governor Davis’ cabinet. After Governor Davis was recalled, Daniel accepted an appointment as a member of the California Agricultural Labor Relations Board until receiving a surprising job offer from First Lady Maria Shriver. Daniel was Shriver’s chief of staff and a senior adviser to Schwarzenegger for three years prior to accepting his current position with The California Endowment. Daniel believes an eclectic and spontaneous career path can be rewarding when connected by a consistent set of goals -- in his case, “the importance of prevention to peoples’ health and the advancement of equal rights for everyone here.”

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The Hodson Endowment

The Timothy A. Hodson Capital Fellows Assistance Fund was established in 2012 after the passing of longtime Center Executive Director, Tim Hodson. The Fund continues Tim’s vision of nurturing young public servants who may not otherwise have the means to participate in the program. Since its inception, awards totaling $11,780 have provided 19 Capital Fellows with the critical financial bridge needed to start the fellowship, covering costs ranging from housing deposit to professional wardrobe.

Recipient Profile: Tyrone McGraw, 2013-14 Jesse M. Unruh Assembly Fellow

I am incredibly grateful to the Hodson Endowment. I didn't have a lot growing up, but I did have a mother, Leona McGraw-Banks, who loved me and believed in the power of education. She reared me as a single parent in an impoverished San Francisco community, and still, she was committed to the idea that I would ‘be someone’ one day. She worked relentlessly to the end. As she pushed me toward excellence in the classroom, my godfather, Brad Hallett, who was my father-figure, taught me many of the most important lessons of my life. Chief among those lessons was to never forget where I come from and to always remember to give back. Though neither went to college, with their help, I made it to Stanford University and, ultimately, the State Assembly.

Despite the tremendous opportunity that I was afforded when I was offered a place among the 2013-14 Jesse M. Unruh Fellows, I faced tremendous financial obstacles due to nearly nonexistent family resources and a job as a teaching fellow in Chicago that paid a stipend of $800 each month. The Timothy A. Hodson Capital Fellows Assistance Fund allowed me to subsidize many of my travel and moving expenses. It wouldn’t be a stretch to say that without the assistance of the Hodson Endowment, I might not be here in Sacramento working as a Jesse M. Unruh Fellow in the Office of Assemblymember Raul Bocanegra.

As the 2014-15 fellowship selection process gets underway, we once again look to the generous support of Center friends and supporters to help replenish the Timothy A. Hodson Capital Fellows Assistance Fund in support of future Capital Fellows.

Please consider donating at the link below:


For additional questions regarding the Timothy A. Hodson Capital Fellows Assistance Fund, please contact Pam Chueh at 916-278-7541 or pam.chueh@csus.edu.