In an ideal world I would start this message with a statement about how things at the Center for California Studies are 100% back to “normal” after the COVID-19 pandemic, but the seismic changes resulting from the pandemic – changes in how we work and communicate, for example – make “going back to normal” an elusive concept.

While many components of the work we do at the Center remain forever changed by the COVID-19 pandemic, I am happy to report that our flagship Capital Fellows Programs have returned to a mostly in-person format, similar to what we had prior to the pandemic. So, for the first time since 2019, fellows from all four programs kicked off their fellowship year with a multi-week in-person orientation. And, for the Assembly, Judicial and Senate Fellows Program, the job experience that is part of the fellowship has returned to an in-person format, much like the work of legislators and the courts. For the Executive Fellows, the post-pandemic movement towards remote work has reshaped state government and the placement offices where Executive Fellows are assigned to work. Nevertheless, all job placements for Executive Fellows have an important in-person component, with the percentage of virtual work varying from site to site. Finally, as a clear example of “going back to normal,” all four Capital Fellows programs have returned to the pre-pandemic expectation that fellows physically relocate to Sacramento (or the location of their superior court, in the case of the judicial fellows), prior to starting their fellowship year.

Despite these examples of a return to an in-person experience, some parts of the Capital Fellows Programs remain virtual. In particular, the convenience and affordability of Zoom interviews means that remote interviews will likely remain a part of the process of selecting each year’s new class of fellows. This marks a significant departure from the in-person interview process prior to the pandemic. We are hopeful that this new format will make the interview process more accessible and affordable to applicants who lack the financial means to travel to Los Angeles or Sacramento, as they were required to do pre-pandemic.

For other programs run by the Center, a mix of virtual and in-person events and activities is expected in the foreseeable future. The LegiSchool program held its first in-person town hall event since the pandemic on October 14, 2022, on the topic of voting. Three town hall events for the remainder of the academic year are planned as virtual events. Our Envisioning California Speaker Series was similarly a mix of in-person and virtual events in 2022, with two in-person events and two virtual webinar-style events.

In the coming years, new viruses, natural disasters, climate-related emergencies and other disasters will emerge, and we here at the Center for California Studies will adapt to the challenges they pose, much like we have the past two years, in hopes that the innovations they leave in their wake can help make our programs stronger.
Bridging academia and government in the state.

The Center for California Studies is based at Sacramento State – the “Capital Campus” of the California State University. Being located in California’s capital strategically positions the Center to be the University’s link to the three branches of California’s government, other universities, think tanks, and outside partnerships involved with public service in California. This, paired with our extensive research, academic programming, and position as part of the country’s largest public university system, makes us uniquely equipped to fulfill our mission and accomplish our goals.

To accomplish its mission, the Center has identified these goals:

- To assist California’s public officials and policymakers in addressing the state’s challenges through policy research and productive dialogue.
- To foster in California’s future leaders a dedication to public service and a commitment to the values of representative democracy, equipping them with the knowledge and skills necessary for an effective and ethical public career.
- To promote civic literacy among Californians, inspiring greater understanding of our state, government, people, and history.
California Studies
Statement

In service of strengthening California’s democracy.

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Center for California Studies

Executive Summary

Significant Center activities in 2022 included:

Stipend Increase for the Capital Fellows Programs
- The Center requested and obtained a 10% increase to the fellows’ monthly salary in the 2022-2023 budget. We are extremely appreciative of the support of the Legislature and the Governor in securing this important increase, which we hope will help offset recent cost of living increases.

Return to the in-person experience for the Capital Fellows Programs
- For the new 2022-23 fellows, 2022 marks the return to the pre-pandemic, in-person fellowship experience for the four Capital Fellows Programs. This includes in-person orientation at the beginning of the program, placement in-person work environments, and in-person programming throughout the year, akin to the format that existed before the pandemic.

Leveraging the strengths of an on-line presence for some programs
- For the 2022-23 academic year, LegiSchool will have a mix of in-person and on-line programming for its town halls and summer internship program. While the on-line format is a departure from past practice, it allows LegiSchool to extend its reach beyond Sacramento.

- Prior to the pandemic, in-person college career fairs were a staple of our outreach efforts for the Capital Fellows Programs. The closure of these in-person events during the pandemic pushed us to improve our on-line outreach tools. An excellent example of this is a video produced this year by the Center’s staff about the Timothy A. Hodson Capital Fellows Assistance Fund, a scholarship available to Capital Fellows, named in honor of the late Tim Hodson, the long-time executive director of the Center and a founder of many of the Center’s programs.

- Of the four Envisioning California Speaker Series events held during 2022, two were virtual webinar-style events, and two were hybrid events with an in-person program livestreamed for those unable to attend in person. Moving forward, we expect to hold more hybrid events, which give members of the capital community more options for engaging in our programming.

Re-launch of the Faculty Research Fellows Program
- In the spring of 2022, after a three-year hiatus during which we evaluated the program, we re-launched the Faculty Research Fellows Program, a program designed to link the research expertise of the CSU faculty with the policy research needs of policy makers. This re-launch began with a release of five requests for proposals to all CSU faculty. We received 16 responses and awarded 8 grants to faculty at 8 different CSU campuses. The reports are expected to be completed at the end of the 2022 calendar year, for dissemination in 2023.

Continuation of projects launched during the pandemic
- We continue to partner with faculty from Sac State’s Departments of Political Science and Public Policy and Administration to publish the California Journal of Politics and Policy. This past year, the journal published an issue dedicated to budget issues in the Western states.

- We continued with the implementation of the $450,000 grant we received from the Bill and Melinda Gates Grant Foundation in November 2019. This past year, the grant supported 4 of the 8 Faculty Research Fellows grants we awarded. We expect to wrap up the implementation of this grant by November, 2023, when it expires.
Public Policy Research: The re-launch of the Faculty Research Fellows Program

The Faculty Research Fellows Program was created over 20 years ago to link the research capacity of the CSU faculty with the policy research needs of state policy makers in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of state government. Dozens of research reports are credited to this program, but in the past 10 years, the number of requests from policy makers and final research products has gone down. In an effort to re-visit the program’s goals and determine how to best utilize it, the Center commissioned a comprehensive evaluation of the program in 2020. The evaluation recommended changes, but confirmed the need for the program among policy makers and recommended its continuation.

Using the insights from the comprehensive evaluation, we began to develop new requests for proposals, based on topics we identified in 2021 and early 2022. In March, 2022 we issued the following RFP’s to all CSU faculty:

- Income and Wealth Inequality in California: Potential Policy Solutions
- Food apartheid in California: What are the root causes of food deserts and food swamps, the effects on communities, and policy recommendations to end food inaccessibility?
- High-growth/high-equality economies: What do they have in common?
- Eviction: What do we know about the long-term costs of eviction and successful eviction intervention programs?
- Racial disparities in child welfare systems: Does blind-removal hold promise for helping California address overrepresentation of certain ethnicities among child removal cases?

We were happy to receive a total of 16 responses from 9 different CSU campuses. We ultimately awarded eight grants, listed in the table below. In addition to these 8 grants, we awarded two grants to Sac State faculty to conduct public opinion surveys. These are the last two projects listed in the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>RESEARCHERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CalSPEAKS survey of Californians’ attitudes towards equity in general and education</td>
<td>Kim Nalder, Kristina Flores Victor (Sacramento State)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inequality: impact of recessions</td>
<td>Devika Hazra, Ellen Shiau (Cal State LA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Econ/regulatory framework in countries with high equality</td>
<td>Tatevik Sargsyan (CSU Northridge)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evictions: intervention/prevention programs and policies and their effectiveness</td>
<td>Amber Crowell, Janine Nkosi (CSU Fresno)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food apartheid: promising solutions</td>
<td>Gabriel Valle, Greig Guthey (CSU San Marcos)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food apartheid: relationship between lending bias/redlining and food deserts in 6 CA metro areas.</td>
<td>Lori Weber, Meghan Byers (CSU Chico)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inequality and long-term policy solutions: Literature review and spatial econometric and time series models to test the effect of policies</td>
<td>Nyakundi Michieka (CSU Bakersfield)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student parents in public colleges and universities: multi-generational returns on investments in student parents.</td>
<td>Tina Cheuk (Cal Poly San Luis Obispo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child welfare system: Blind removal policies</td>
<td>Joycelyn Wormley (Sacramento State)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Voter Project: survey of Black voters in California</td>
<td>Christopher Towler (Sacramento State)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I used to think government work was extremely rigid and straightforward, but now I've seen firsthand how complex state matters can be. There is no one right answer, and that is why it's so important that Californians take the many opportunities to voice their opinions to impact legislation.
The Jesse Marvin Unruh Assembly Fellowship Program

Founded in 1957 by then-Speaker Jesse M Unruh, the Assembly Fellowship Program is the oldest of the four Capital Fellows Programs and marked its 65th anniversary in 2022. The program is a part of the Assembly’s earliest efforts to professionalize legislative staff. Since the 1980s, the program has been a partnership between the California State Assembly, the Center for California Studies, and Sacramento State.

The goal of the Assembly Fellowship Program is to provide an opportunity for aspiring public servants to directly participate in the legislative process.

In 2022, the Assembly Fellowship was able to return to an in-person orientation after two years of online and hybrid programming. The Fellows participated in an intensive seven-week-long in-person orientation in preparation for their office placements. Orientation continued to focus on the themes of process, policy, politics, and placement with trainings led by key legislative staff, many of whom are Assembly Fellowship alumni. Activities included legislative and budget process training, placement preparation, professional development, and team building. The program also added sessions on mental health and imposter syndrome in response to feedback given by previous cohorts.

While COVID caused a slight dip in the number of applicants, the Assembly Program interviewed 84 highly qualified applicants from which the class of 18 was chosen. The class of 2022-23 is a high caliber and diverse class of Fellows with Fellows hailing from the far corners of California and several from out-of-state.

The Program continues to have a strong relationship with Assembly Leadership and increased the number of Member applicants for Fellows from 42 last year and 38 the year prior to 54 Member applicants. Fellows were placed in offices ranging from newly elected Members to the Offices of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

This year the program formed a relationship with the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls (CCSWG) and California Women Lead, a non-partisan leadership development organization, to provide scholarships to the female Fellows in all four Capital Fellows programs. Participants also attended a day-long leadership development conference led by elected officials and high-ranking members of the Administration.

Visit us at: https://www.csus.edu/center/center-california-studies/capital-fellows.html
Twitter: @asmfellows
Instagram: @assemblyfellows
The California Senate Fellows Program

Created in 1973, the California Senate Fellows Program (CSF) is the second oldest of the four Capital Fellows Programs. The Secretary of the Senate, Erika Contreras - a former Fellow herself - contributes to the CSF program as the principal Senate partner. The 11-month Fellowship program provides experiential learning, professional and career development and mentorship. This is in addition to an intensive academic component and policy briefings from subject matter experts who are dedicated to the mission of the Center—building legislative staff capacity and strengthening California’s democratic governance structure. Our Senate partners consider the Fellows program an integral part of its staff succession plan.

Fellows were able to manage legislation, staff committees, conduct research, develop bill and budget analyses, manage stakeholder efforts, and provide constituent services in addition to a variety of other essential tasks.

The 2021-22 California Senate Fellows program ended on September 9, 2022, and the class was successful in obtaining post-fellowship career employment. Thirteen Senate Fellows stayed on in staff positions within the Legislature. One Fellow left the Legislature to work on a Congressional campaign. Another Fellow left the Legislature to develop a for-profit business. In addition, two Fellows left the Legislature to attend graduate school and law school.

The 2021-22 CSF selection panel played a crucial role identifying the most competitive appointments to the program’s eighteen positions. The selection panel reviewed two-hundred and ninety-eight applications and facilitated 82 virtual interviews. The CSF selection panel was comprised of one representative of the Center for CA Studies at Sac State, one academic representative of the Sac State Political Science Department, two Republican Senate staff members, and five Democratic Senate staff members. The 2022-23 class of Senate Fellows arrived on October 12. After a seven-week orientation, which focused on experiential learning, process, policy, and custom and practice in the CA Senate, Fellows began their assignments in Senate offices in December 2022.

The 2021-22 California Senate Fellows completed their academic seminar in May of 2022, researching and writing a 40-page formal policy paper. This capstone project represented an in-depth and scholarly analysis of an issue selected by Fellows, with an emphasis on future policy options, and detailing key policy recommendations. The assigned policy analysis allowed Fellows to emphasize “live” rather than library research. Fellows sources of information were individuals and offices currently working on legislation and issues related to the academic research topic. Interviewing the important “participants” in the process is an especially appropriate technique that is developed through the capstone project and reinforced throughout the fellowship.

Visit us at: https://www.csus.edu/center-center-california-studies/capital-Fellows.html
The Judicial Fellowship Program

In 1997, the Center for California Studies collaborated with the Judicial Council of California to create a unique program in the third branch of state government. At a time in history when the state court faced unprecedented changes in governance and funding, the California State University system identified its niche in the unique public management arena of court policy and administration.

Serving as professional staff, Judicial Fellows assist in policy-making and innovative programs that impact the courts and the goals of providing justice through equal access and fairness across the state and in local communities.

The only program to offer statewide placement opportunities, the Judicial Fellowship Program selects 10 Fellows each year. Placement locations in 2022 included the counties of Alameda (21-22), Butte, Los Angeles, Nevada, Orange (22-23) Placer, Sacramento, San Bernardino, and San Mateo, as well as the Judicial Council Office of Governmental Affairs, and Judicial Council Criminal Justice Services division (21-22). The program welcomed a new placement office within the Sacramento Superior Court, the Family Law Facilitator/Self Help Center.

In 2022, the class of 21-22 completed their respective year-long Fellowship Projects. Projects included an analysis and evaluation of homeless court programs, and implementation of a new, courtwide eFiling system.

In 2022 Judicial Fellows served on site at their placement in combination with some remote work as scheduled.

In Spring of 2022 Judicial Fellows came together for two in person events, the May field seminar and the end of year ceremony with the Chief Justice in June. The class of 2021-22 concluded in July. In September 2022 we welcomed the incoming Judicial Fellows for in person Orientation in Sacramento. Orientation covered many introductory topics and team building opportunities. The Judicial Fellows continue to meet in person for field seminar in the Fall of 2022.

Virtual Speaker Series
The monthly Speaker Series focuses on an aspect of court administration or professional development. Fellows speak with different court administrators and learn more about career paths, changes in the judicial branch, technology updates, and current public policy issues.

Virtual Interviews
All candidates for the Judicial Fellowship Program class of 22-23 interviewed via Zoom in April and May 2022.

Keep up to date on the Judicial Fellows!
Judicial Blog: https://cajudicial.wordpress.com/
Twitter: @cajudicial
Instagram: @cajudicial
2021-22 Judicial Fellows
The Executive Fellowship Program

The Executive Fellowship Program was created in 1985 through the joint efforts of then-Sacramento State President Don Gerth and then-Governor George Deukmejian. It was the third of the now four Fellowship programs composing the Capital Fellows Programs. The Executive Fellowship Program started with ten Fellows in October of 1986. The program expanded to fifteen Fellows in 1994 and eighteen in 1997. The Executive Fellowship Program continues to accelerate the personal leadership growth of public sector professionals towards preserving and protecting our democracy. Executive Fellows are skilled, ethical, and purposeful leaders who are committed to making a difference in the world, and who invest their career in protecting and securing opportunities for all communities to thrive.

The 2021-2022 Executive Fellows continued to build off the excellent reputation and work of the prior all-remote class of Executive Fellows. Fellows were offered the opportunity to move to Sacramento and serve in offices providing limited in-person work experiences. They remained firmly involved in the crisis management operations of all their placements. These placements included the Government Operations Agency, the California State Transportation Agency, the Strategic Growth Council / Equity & Community Development, the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services, the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency, and the California Student Aid Commission. New placement offices included the Go-Biz International Affairs Unit, the Delta Stewardship Council, the Governor’s Office of External Affairs, the California Research Bureau, and the Governor’s Cabinet Senior Advisor for Climate. This cohort is to be commended for their term of service under the most challenging and limiting of conditions and for helping the state recover and return to pre-pandemic service levels. All members of the 2021-22 class were able to secure post Fellowship employment, many of whom remained in staff and executive positions in California government.

The 2022-2023 Executive Fellows are the first class to return to Sacramento in-person full time. They completed their orientation and began their placements in hybrid work environments in mid-November. They have already begun integrating into the operations of their placements and assuming roles within their respective leadership offices and teams. Our newest class of Fellows is our first class transitioning into the post-pandemic world of state service with courage and commitment and are a part of the re-integration of offices across the administration. They are already carrying on our program traditions of selfless, creative, and diligent service. We are confident in the success of this class in the face of the new challenges of the program year ahead.

Fellows work full-time in high levels of the executive branch and meet weekly for graduate seminars. It is a wonderful opportunity for Fellows to gain insight and experience in state government.

Keep up to date on the Executive Fellows!
Executive Blog: https://cajudicial.wordpress.com/
LinkedIn: Executive Fellowship Program
Instagram: @execfellows
Founded in 1994, the LegiSchool Project is a civic education collaboration between Sacramento State and the California State Legislature. LegiSchool encourages high school students to be civically engaged in their district and beyond. Our diverse programming throughout the year gives students the opportunity to talk about important state issues and current events.

Ethnic Studies in California, held in May, was the first Virtual Town Hall of 2022. High school students from the Cesar Chavez High School, Inderkum, Vista del Lago, Hiram Johnson and more gathered on Zoom to discuss the ethnic studies requirements in high school classrooms and universities. Jackelyn Diaz-Perez, alumni from the LegiSchool Civics Institute and current UC Berkeley student moderated this event.

In July, LegiSchool hosted the second Virtual Town Hall of the year: Climate Change and the Future of California. Two of LegiSchool Civics Institute Alumni moderated this event: Alex Yu from Dr. A. Vladovic Harbor Teacher Preparation Academy and Kelly Chiang from Temple City High School. Panelists included Amanda Hansen from California Natural Resources Agency, Frank Jimenez from the LAO and Laura Gonzalez-Ospina from Sac State.

In Summer 2022, LegiSchool continued the virtual programming and hosted the Virtual Civics Institute for the third year in a row, an online virtual internship experience. For four weeks, 17 students experienced all three branches of government and heard from over 15 guest speakers, collaborated on their Town Hall Final Projects, conducted policy research, and participated in professional workshops.

In October 2022, LegiSchool hosted the FIRST in-person Town Hall Event since Spring 2020, Voting in California, moderated by students from Luther Burbank High School and more. The event was held at the Library & Courts building in Downtown Sacramento and panelists included Alex Vassar from the California State Library, Council member Mai Vang from Sacramento District 8, Claudia Bonsignore from the League of Women Voters of Sacramento County, and Adriana Leal from the California Young Democrats. This important conversation focused on the importance of voting and how young people can get involved in local government and beyond.

To find out more about these opportunities and all of LegiSchool’s civic education pursuits, please visit our website: https://www.csus.edu/legischool
Outreach in 2022 included recruitment of the 2022-23 and 2023-24 classes of Capital Fellows. Methods for reaching applicants include alumni and staff Zoom virtual career fairs, Handshake, CareerEco, and instructional videos by the Directors. We continued our outreach efforts via emailing outreach materials, online advertising, and social media including blogs, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram posts. Due to Covid-19 since March 2020 we have not attended in-person career fairs or sent out paper brochure mailings. We noticed the impact of not having in-person career fairs with the application numbers that we received for the class of 2022-23.

Out of 1033 applications that were started, 408 were not submitted on time, 141 were withdrawn applications, and a total of 484 complete applications were received in February 2022 for the 2022-23 class of Capital Fellows Programs. 25% of these applicants received their undergraduate degree from the CSU, 43% from the UC, 14% from private California universities, and 18% from out-of-state universities; 58% of applicants were female 37% male 3% Mx. and 2% were not stated. Over the last ten years, the number of applications for the Capital Fellows Programs has ranged from 484 to 1,468 with an average over the ten-year period of 1,120 applications. Outreach in 2022 culminated in the selection of a diverse 2022-23 class of fellows. Based on application surveys, this class consisted of 62% Persons of Color, more specifically, the class was 17% Asian/Pacific Islander, 3% Bi/Multi-Racial, 8% Black/African American, 34% Latino/Hispanic, 30% Caucasian and 8% Not Specified.

We received applications from applicants with bachelor’s degrees from 54 different California universities and 53 out-of-state schools. Selected Fellows received degrees from 32 different campuses and represent 26 different majors. Surveys showed that they heard about the programs from several locations; most applicants listed more than one source of information. 27% of applicants heard about the programs from professors or academic staff; 21% from career centers or career fairs; 26% from former or current Fellows; 18% from the internet or online publications; and 7% from social media which includes Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn. A review of the 2023-24 applications will begin in February of 2023.

### Post-Fellowship Decisions, 2021–22 Capital Fellows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Stayed With Placement or With Same Branch</th>
<th>Other State, Federal or Local Government Service</th>
<th>Graduate or Law School</th>
<th>Private Sector (includes legislative advocacy related work)</th>
<th>Non-Profit Sector</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assembly</td>
<td>13 (72%)</td>
<td>3 (17%)</td>
<td>2 (11%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive</td>
<td>10 (56%)</td>
<td>1 (5%)</td>
<td>2 (11%)</td>
<td>2 (11%)</td>
<td>3 (17%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judicial</td>
<td>2 (20%)</td>
<td>1 (10%)</td>
<td>4 (40%)</td>
<td>1 (0%)</td>
<td>1 (10%)</td>
<td>1 (10%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senate</td>
<td>13 (76%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>2 (12%)</td>
<td>1 (5%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>1 (5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>38 (60%)</td>
<td>5 (8%)</td>
<td>10 (16%)</td>
<td>4 (6%)</td>
<td>4 (6%)</td>
<td>2 (3%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Capital Fellows Applications Received
Fellowship Years 2010-11 to 2022-23

Capital Fellows Applicants Undergrad School Type
Fellowship Year 2022-23

Capital Fellows Applicants Ethnicity
Fellowship Year 2022-23

Capital Fellows Undergrad School Type,
2022-23 Class

Capital Fellows Ethnicity,
2022-23 Class
Envisioning California Speaker Series

In 2022, the Center held four events as part of its Envisioning California Speaker Series. Recordings of all four events are on our website.

**California’s Implementation of the Affordable Care Act: How Medi-Cal expansion has impacted health care access and health status for low-income Californians** – This was an on-line webinar-style event held on January 28, 2022 which began with a presentation by Dr. Natalie Schwehr, lead researcher of an article that appeared in the 2021 (Vol. 13, Issue 1) issue of the California Journal of Politics and Policy. Scott Bain, Principal Consultant for the Assembly Committee on Health, also spoke and provided a real-world perspective on Dr. Schwehr’s findings.

**Pandemic Politics: How did COVID alter the election landscape?** We held this hybrid in-person, livestreamed event featuring a presentation by Dr. Alana Jeydel, author of an article published in Vol. 13 Issue 1 of the California Journal of Politics and Policy. The event also featured commentary by Corin Choppin, a Sacramento political consultant and lecturer in Sac State’s Political Science Department. The event was held at the Sac State Downtown Center on April 29, 2022.

**Perspective on Black Voters: Examining results from the Black Voter Project public opinion survey.** This was another in-person event, livestreamed for those unable to attend in person, and focusing on the research of Dr. Christopher Towler, an Associate Professor of Political Science at Sac State. Dr. Towler’s presented findings from his Black Voter Project public opinion surveys focusing on the views and voting patterns of African American voters in the U.S. This event was held at the Sac State main campus on October 27, 2022.

**The 2022 Election: What Just Happened?** We partnered with Sac State’s Project for an Informed Electorate to host this on-line webinar-style discussion of the 2022 Mid-terms. The panel included Dr. Kristina Flores Victor, Dr. Wesley Hussey, Dr. Christopher Towler, and Dr. Danielle Martin, all faculty from Sac State’s Department of Political Science. It was held November 16, 2022 and was moderated by Dr. Kim Nalder, Sac State Professor of Political Science and Director of the Project for an Informed Electorate. This event marked the second time the Center has partnered with Sac State’s Project for an Informed Electorate to host a post-mortem analysis of a national election, and we hope to make this a regular event.
Implementation of the Gates Foundation Grant

In November, 2019 the Center received a two-year grant of approximately $450,000 to do the following 1) evaluate the Center’s programs and overall strategy, 2) fund applied research and programming on economic equity, and 3) revive a leadership training program for emerging education leaders. To date, we have received two one-year no-cost extensions, which will allow us to fully spend the funds by the end of 2023.

Capacity-building/program evaluation – Our grant includes funds to evaluate the Center’s programs and overall strategy. To date we have completed one evaluation, that of the Faculty Research Fellows Programs, performed by Sac State’s Institute for Social Research. We are also near completion of a comprehensive evaluation of the LegiSchool program, performed by faculty in Sac State’s College of Education. Finally, we have contracted with a communication consultant to look at the Center’s external communications, including our social media. We are hopeful that this latest evaluation will help us fine tune our outreach strategy for the Capital Fellows Program.

Applied research and programming on economic inequality – The Gates grant included funds to support applied research on the topic of economic inequality in California. At the Gates Foundation’s invitation we joined an informal consortia of California researchers focused on the problem of educational equity. We soon brought in colleagues from Sac State who specialize in public opinion surveys, to help the group gauge public attitudes on educational inequality. To that end, we provided some Gates funds to the Institute of Social Research and Dr. Kim Nalder, who directs the CalSPEAKS statewide survey panel of public opinion, to conduct a survey gauging public attitudes towards things like resource shortages in schools (i.e., a shortage of qualified teachers), unequal access to higher education, unequal educational outcomes by race/ethnicity, and whether all groups have the same opportunities to learn and achieve. To date, the survey has been completed and Dr. Nalder and Dr. Kristina Flores Victor are analyzing the data, with the expectation that they will publish their findings in early 2023. We also used Gates funds from this category to pay for four of the eight Faculty Research Fellows Program grants we awarded – see the table under “Faculty Research Fellows Program” on p. 5. As these reports are completed, we will likely hold public events in 2023 to disseminate the research, using any remaining Gates funds to pay for the events.

Leadership training for emerging education leaders. – The Gates grant includes a set aside to resurrect the Gus Chavez Educational Leadership Institute for emerging education leaders from all over California. In 2020 and 2021, the class of leaders was selected. They attended virtual and in-person intensive trainings in 2020, 2021 and 2022. Now, as we look toward the closure of our grant, we hope to use any remaining funds for additional training and networking for the selected class of education leaders.
Center Projects

Hodson Endowment
The Timothy A. Hodson Capital Fellows Assistance Fund is dedicated to the mission of supporting Capital Fellows with needs-based awards. In 2022 over $15,000 in funding was granted to 28 incoming 2022-23 Capital Fellows. These funds provide a critical financial bridge needed to start the fellowship, covering costs ranging from housing deposits to professional wardrobes. Center friends, colleagues and the Hodson family continued to help sustain the Fund with their generous support.

Since the establishment of the Hodson Fund, we have aided 172 Fellows from eleven consecutive cohorts. These inspiring future leaders represent the California promise and dreams that Tim Hodson often wrote and spoke about and would be so proud to see today.

In fall 2022 the Center released a new video campaign aimed at highlighting Fellow recipients of the Hodson award and the difference it made in their fellowship year. The video can be found on our social media sites and our YouTube channel.

California Journal of Policy and Politics
In 2021, Sac State became the new home of the long-standing academic journal, the California Journal of Politics and Policy. Published for many years by UC Berkeley’s Institute of Governmental Studies, the journal was searching for a new home after organizational changes at UC Berkeley. In conjunction with faculty from Sac State’s Public Policy and Administration Department and Political Science Department, the Center publishes this uniquely California-focused journal. Early in 2022, Volume 14, Issue 1 was published, focusing on state budgets in Western states. The issue included a total of 13 articles, focusing on recent budget challenges in 11 Western states. Many thanks to Ted Lascher, Professor Emeritus of Public Policy and Administration at Sac State for serving as Managing Editor of the journal, and Wesley Hussey, Professor of Political Science at Sac State for his contributions to the journal.

EPFP
The Education Policy Fellows Program is a leadership training program for education practitioners and education policy professionals. It is jointly administered by EdInsights of Sac State and the Center for California. This fall, the newest class of 20 Education Policy Fellows began their fellowship year with a 3-day training at the Asilomar State Conference Center. This training marked the end of a one-year hiatus of the Education Policy Fellows Program, which provided time for EdInsights to recruit and hire a new Executive Director after the 2021 departure of Andrea Venezia, the former Executive Director. The new Executive Director, LeAnn Fong-Batkin, brings over two decades of K-12 and higher education policy experience to EdInsights.

Legislative Staff Management Institute
For two decades, the Center and the University of Southern California’s Sol Price School of Public Policy have partnered to run this eight-day, national leadership training program, sponsored by the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). This annual program is designed to help mid-career legislative staff - from all over the country - take on management and leadership roles in their respective legislative offices.

Our August, 2022 Legislative Staff Management Institute marked the second year in a row of an in-person format for this flagship executive training program, hosted every year in Sacramento for legislative staff from all over the country. In partnership with faculty from the Sol Price School of Public Policy at USC, the Center has a contract with the National Conference of State Legislatures to hold this unique training open to all legislative staff from all 50 state legislatures. We received a record-breaking 72 applications this year showing how the enthusiasm for this unique program has not waned, even in the midst of political turmoil and pandemic-related stress. A total of 61 participants from 31 states joined us in Sacramento for our 8-day intensive training program. The vast majority of participating staff work in non-partisan legislative offices.
In offering its various programs, the Center has greatly benefited from productive collaborations with many partners outside California State University, Sacramento. Thank you to all our partners, including but not limited to, the following:

- Office of the Governor
- California State Assembly
- California State Senate
- Judicial Council of California
- California State Archives
- California Secretary of State
- Capital Public Radio
- California Center for Civic Participation
- California Cultural and Historical Endowment
- Institute for Governmental Studies, UC Berkeley
- Institute for Local Government
- National Conference of State Legislatures
- Pat Brown Institute, California State University, Los Angeles
- UC Berkeley Public Policy Press
- University of Southern California, Sol Price School of Public Policy
- University of California Center, Sacramento