

CRISJ Building Justice Transcript: Interview with Assemblymember Kevin McCarty

Kristina Flores Victor: Welcome to Building Justice. A podcast by Sacramento State's Center on Race Immigration and Social Justice, otherwise known as CRISJ. We explore critical issues affecting our communities with the hopes of creating a healthier and more just world.

Kristina Flores Victor: I am Professor Kristina Flores Victor and I am here with Professor Chris Towler. We are both professors in the Political Science Department here on the Sac State campus, and today we have the pleasure of speaking with California Assemblymember Kevin McCarty.

Kristina Flores Victor: Today we will be discussing student civic engagement and public service, and also current policy issues in District-7, and in California.

Kristina Flores Victor: First of all, I want to say thank you very much for being here today, as I remember, McCarty and I have a couple of questions to get us started. About how our students here at Sac State, and more broadly in the CSU can get involved in public service. And I think, as an alumni of the CSU system, you are uniquely qualified to answer these questions. So first up, as you probably know, many of our students are first generation scholars. Many are very interested in a career in public service, but they may not have parents or siblings or family members who hold positions similar to what they're seeking, or who did internships. So, knowing what you know now, what would be your advice to our undergraduates as they start their public service careers?

[2:10]

ASM Kevin McCarty: Great question. And first of all, thank you for having me today. As you noted, I'm an Assemblymember, but I'm a Sac State, and Cal State Long beach alum. So, uh stingers up love, love, Sac State, and love the CSU system. You know the people's University. You're right, it is such a diverse university that reflects what California looks like, you know, as far as Latino population, African, American, almost mirroring what we have in California. We don't have that, for example, in the UC system. But the CSU system is very, very diverse.

ASM Kevin McCarty: yeah, when I was elected and sworn in. I'm just thinking about this today when I became a public official. I guess it was eighteen years ago this month that I, you know I had a party that night with all my supporters, and I got up and gave a speech to my, to my family and supporters, and I said, tonight I'm, I have a new title. I'm an Assemblymember they call us sometimes honorable. If you're elected the honorable, so I find that's really weird on this honorable but you know, I reminded people, and frankly, I was probably reminding myself that over the course of history the people that have changed the world don't have fancy titles, you know, people like Martin Luther King, Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, you know Mohamed Gandhi, Steven Pico. The list goes on and on. They're just ordinary people doing extraordinary things. That's the first thing I want to tell young people is, you don't have to have a fancy title to do something big, you know.

ASM Kevin McCarty: Right here in Sacramento we I know this. A woman named Alison Seconds. She's a local uh musician and an artist had a coffee shop in midtown, you know. She was tired of seeing all the trash on the river over the years, and thought, you know, somebody should pick this stuff up. Government should be picking it up, and after years she decided it's not happening. Let's just do it. So, she started an organization called Sacramento Picks It Up. Now, they have literally probably five hundred people going out every month, every week, to different sites across Sacramento and just picking up trash different locations. So, you know, people can get involved, start organizations. Be part of something without having a title as an elected official granted I'd love to see more CSU students in Sac State students put their name on the ballot. We had a couple of just one, you know seats here in Sacramento a couple of days ago. So, you know that's exciting that uh, you know we want people to be engaged to vote, you know. Most call students do vote more than their peers in general. But just find ways to be involved if it's an internship for a politician great, and there's always plenty of opportunities, and people always looking for that, you know, if it's, you know, working at a child care center, a food bank, a senior home.

ASM Kevin McCarty: You know any other community organization that needs a helping hand. We should do so. And then, lastly, not to get to sidetrack, but that's one of my missions is legislation in the coming years as to what we can do to expand to further set in motion. Community service for young people. The Governor just created this program. The College Core was giving some students grants and stipends to do community service. I worked on a bill this year that's doing the same thing at the High School level. But why can't we be like we have an Israel, for young people as a condition uh a part. Being a citizen there, they have to serve for a couple of years before they go to college granted, they serve in the military in Israel. Um, but by can we have it so? You know, college students here do some type of community service that's embedded in their academic path? So that's something that I'll be looking at this year in the years ahead as well.

[6:06]

Kristina Flores Victor: Well, I think that takes me directly into my second question, and I hope I don't make you repeat yourself here. But, you know a lot of our students do work full time, and there are costs sometimes associated with or tradeoffs, you know, associated with volunteering or doing extracurriculars like internships.

Kristina Flores Victor: So how did you, or you know, were you able to fit in those kind of experiences when you were in your undergrad or in your graduate experiences?

ASM Kevin McCarty: Yeah, I got lucky I got, I got a paid internship when I wanted to work for a local elected official. When I was a student, a junior at Long Beach State. Most students don't have the opportunity. I, at my office, do paid internships here and there, not for all interns. We do have some that we do paid internships for, but, uh, you know, that's-that's a dilemma. Some students and will have families of resources will help them subsidize them having an internship. So, what would I say to those students who can't do it, you know-do what you can. Maybe you can find internship where you can-do you know? Ten hours a week, eight hours a week, you know.

ASM Kevin McCarty: Sometimes, you know, in the last, maybe seven hours a week, two days a week for three and a half hours after school, or something like that. And you know there's groups that would organizations that would that would take that. And so maybe you could squeeze it in you. Maybe you can't do the twenty hours a week, because you have to have a part-time job, or sometimes you in a full-time job versus a take care of themselves. But maybe there are opportunities where you can do something like that. And a potentially. There are internships that are paid, or the minimum have stipends.

[7:50]

Kristina Flores Victor: Okay, and lastly, I have a bit of a two-part question here. So many of our students here on campus and throughout the CSUs are very passionate student advocates, they are activists, they are advocates, and a lot of students will talk about how they have burnout. So, they're working full time. They're trying to balance their academic scholarship and their activism. And so, I'm kind of curious about how you potentially deal with that kind of a burnout, and I think the reason they maybe get this is they're very involved in politics, and they often mentioned how frustrated they are by how slowly things change, and how do you deal...perhaps as an elected official with that feeling of working on something for a long time, but the change may be very small or incremental. So how do you, you know, advise students who are dealing with this kind of burnout when they see this like slow change?

ASM Kevin McCarty: Well, that's a key issue for anybody. Just patience, and it's easier said than done to have those skills, would you tribute to your career, your passion, your work, and young people are, you know, idealistic, and they want to see change right away, and I was like that, too. I will say that in my job, and granted I'm a little older now, so I have that, you know vantage point. I realized that some stuff takes time, you know. I was sworn into office in uh December of 2014 in the Assembly, and my first two weeks of office, I introduced two marquee bills that I wanted to put my name on. One was having universal free preschool here in California, like many other States, had, California was lagging, and I wanted to uh have uh shoot police shootings for individuals, lost their lives, be investigated independently by a State Department of Justice as opposed to local police departments, who, I felt we're a little bit biased, and both those bills failed the first year, failed the second year, the third year, the fourth year it wasn't till my sixth year that they both became law, and so I had to introduce those bills over and over and keep plugging along, and I could have given up and said, "No, it's not gonna happen." But you know, perseverance really, really matters in public policy, and sometimes it's just you're just lucky the right place the right time.

ASM Kevin McCarty: Like honestly, my police Reform Bill, it probably would not have happened but for the fact that the world saw George Floyd murdered on television. They saw the video, and it opened up the policy window.

ASM Kevin McCarty: For you know, major, criminal justice, racial justice bills to pass another bill on voting rights for people after they serve their time in prison that I was, it was languishing. And after that incident, too, with George Floyd that bill passed. And so, you know, sometimes just a window opens up the policy window opens up.

ASM Kevin McCarty: You know my bill for universal preschool. You know I had tough time with a prior Governor. And then, when Gavin Newsom was running for Governor, and he talked about this as a key issue of early education, I knew this is it, we're going to make this happen. And sure enough, he got elected, and a year past, and then the economy was doing better in the budget, and we're able to to have a major, major lift to make this a three-billion-dollar commitment for California reality. So, you know, he's had to push along, and every once in a while, like the sunshine comes out, and you're ready to go.

ASM Kevin McCarty: But you have to be got to be in the game for that to happen.

Kristina Flores Victor: Thank you very much. I think that's a perfect transition, over to Professor Towler, I think he wants to discuss in some more detail some public policy issues.

[11:58]

Christopher Towler: Yes, thank you again. Assembly Member McCarty for joining us. Uh, we couldn't let you go without at least asking you about some of your legislative agenda past, present, and future. So, some of what you've already mentioned. I would love to discuss further with you. The second part of the podcast offers an opportunity to discuss legislative and policy issues in the Sacramento region and the state at large. Considering your recent policy, focus and education, police and criminal justice, reform and environmental protection. Let's start with a discussion of these issues. If you don't, mind.

ASM Kevin McCarty: Great.

[12:33]

Christopher Towler: So, the first question as we approach the end of 2022 there are a few key legislative victories when it comes to education, policy, mostly having to do with higher education.

Christopher Towler: Um. Yet what will most likely be the most talked about policy victory in this room comes with the implementation of Universal kindergarten across the State. Can you just take a moment to talk about some of the educational policy you've been working on and sort of discuss what comes next in this policy realm?

ASM Kevin McCarty: Yeah. Well, I I've been working on expanding public education, access and quality for all students and all ages, from our youngest students in early-Ed. K-12 to higher education. You know, this is a knowledge-based economy where the education matters. As far as economic mobility, it also matters for our economy. You know, we need more graduates to fill the jobs of today and tomorrow, you know. Unfortunately, we have to go recruit people from India sometimes to fill these jobs in these tech jobs because we don't have enough people here which is double whammy, because you know, the people here don't take those jobs, and some of our communities are left behind and stuck in careers that you know don't pay living wages, and you know, perpetuate poverty and intergenerational poverty. So, um, but being that I did some research and looked at what other researchers were saying. As far as education, what we can make a difference in the common denominator for years was the early education matters, because one thing that you could do to change the outcome of people in- in school.

ASM Kevin McCarty: It's making sure that you know people start the same place when they enter kindergarten that starts with kindergarten readiness and early Ed and some kids get it, and some kids don't, and you can literally see and track the kids at first, second, and then finally third grade and the reading scores by the ones who had early-Ed, and who did not so. And the one of the reasons why I was successful in this, because I didn't tie it necessarily on a moral issue and value. But some of the sticky issues that we're trying to address in California. If you look at things like breaking cycles of intergenerational poverty.

ASM Kevin McCarty: If you look at the school to prison pipeline and criminal justice, and you know it's the school issues that the achievement gap, the opportunity gap, you know. Preschool was the proven difference maker. And so, some of the most powerful witnesses I had when I push for my Preschool for All Bill through. I wasn't kindergarten teacher or a preschool teacher. It was a local police chief or a local DA, and our local DA or Anne Marie Schubert, who didn't agree on a lot of things on criminal justice side and police reform. She was my star witness. She came in the committee room and said, "Hey, if you want fewer kids in the juvenile justice system, you know, you need to have more kids in State preschool programs," and so that really enabled us to uh, you know, open some eyes through through that, my colleagues, and we got it across the finish line.

[15:40]

Christopher Towler: It seems like the equitable aspect of early childhood education shines through, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, where reports suggest that those in lower income stratas, or living in underrepresented communities, you know, educationally felt the impact extremely harsh when it came to missing school time, or having to move remotely.

Christopher Towler: And so, this this seems to also work within that aspect of trying to uplift the communities hit hardest in the wake of Covid as well.

ASM Kevin McCarty: Absolutely.

Christopher Towler: In addition, in addition to education, you had mentioned working with law enforcement and the justice system in terms of police and criminal justice reform AB 1443 and 119 having to do with community policing and firearms tracing stand out as immensely important legislative victories. In the last year or two, however, it seems to have been a bit more difficult to push through legislation that works towards police transparency. Such as policy working towards use of force payouts or reporting of deaths from public service agencies, and the implementation of additional police training, such as bias training.

Christopher Towler: With this topic can you kind of discuss the progress made, and why certain issues might have been able to be pushed through in the last couple of years, and others might have more of an uphill battle?

[17:04]

ASM Kevin McCarty: Yeah, you know you can't- we can't-can't get them all, you know, but I think that we've been able to enact some significant police reforms. And we should talk about the glass being, I would say, three quarters full, and not, you know, a quarter empty.

ASM Kevin McCarty: So, I think that there's four that just top of my head jump out. One is a bill I worked on, I think, four years ago Dr. Weber was a lead author. I was the to join author with her on our use of force bill, and changing the standards as far as when officers officers could legally shoot and kill somebody, changed it from a reasonable standard, which is very subjective from the eyes of a reason of what another police officer do to you know when necessary.

ASM Kevin McCarty: And so that also changed training in law enforcement. So, we've seen that there's been fewer incidents of fatalities, with more training than the bill that I did a couple two years later that focused on --Who does these investigations? It's no longer the police policing themselves, which is just doesn't make any sense.

ASM Kevin McCarty: Now the Attorney General is doing these, and he has a batch of them. He's about to come to conclusions right now, and you know the idea is to, you know, have a bunch more people prosecuted? Maybe, maybe not. It's about fairness and accountability. When an officer does across the line and then, you know a two other bills that, I think are important in the police reforms basically last couple of years, one on police records to make sure that those records are now public, and Senator Skinner pushed forward that.

ASM Kevin McCarty: And then a last year, which I think is such a key issue is is uh for the to work out the title of the bill, but I'll describe it to you is when police officers get fired for you know, uh, you know, crossing the line from some small police department, and then they bounce around to other departments. And so, this kind of stops that practice. So, I think, in totality, you know, these things are making a major difference. So, we had, you know, some other ones, too, that we're in the mix. So, I, you know, proud of the work that we've done, but we're not done like you said, too. There's a couple of bills that I authored, you know, publicizing how much we pay out. I think, if people knew how much we paid out, you know, every year for these, you know, abuse a use of force abusing individuals with too much excessive force, you know. Sometimes they make the front page the newspaper. Sometimes they don't so. I think that the public deserves to know that, and once they do know that they'll demand more appropriate action from their police force and training, and so forth. So, you know, this is not going to go away, and it we'll keep on it. But again, proud of the stuff that we've got in California last few years on this on this topic.

[19:57]

Christopher Towler: Yeah, you say there's more work to do. If if you could pick the next sort of legislative victory in this area in this policy area. What do you think you would want to see happen next? Regarding sort of police and criminal justice reform.

ASM Kevin McCarty: On police reform. I think we've got a lot that we can do. There are some, you know, some tweaks in in, in here. I think the real thing that for criminal justice reform. You know, California, we've we really done a lot after the incarceration decade of the eighties and nineties last ten years to have sentencing reform and have some smart, you know, policy changes

to, you know, work on stemming the school, the prison pipeline for so many people in so many communities.

ASM Kevin McCarty: I think the big thing now is, we need to focus on--How do we help people succeed once they get out of the criminal justice system? You know, so, I wrote laws and created policies on, you know employment, you know the ban the box law, you know, restoring voting rights. College access to my rising scholars' program to help CSU and community college students enter the system after incarceration. But there's still hurdles in housing, and the other things as well. So, I think that focusing on the re-entry side is the way to really address recidivism.

ASM Kevin McCarty: And now we're getting pushed back from the other side that with our reforms went too far. And so, you know, I think that you know we need to think about other things that we do like drug treatment. Do we, do we make sure that people who went through the criminal justice system, and frankly, their crimes are being fed by their addiction to drugs. Are we helping them when they're incarcerated and helping them address their root issues, so, when they get out that you know they've addressed some of those addiction issues. So, there's a sweet spot that we're going to have to navigate. And again, you know the mood of the people of California that determines that as well. Like I said earlier, the policy window four years ago, after George Floyd for the police reforms. Now we're seeing a lot of our communities, you know, are concerned. We want to make sure that we have policies that that make sense and, so we'll be working on that. And I, I'm quite certain this year in the next couple of years as well.

[22:24]

Christopher Towler: Yes, absolutely agree that the criminal justice system has always been a slippery slope from reform to removal. Um, and so it definitely seems like the last five or six years or so the latter, rather than the former has been emphasized. I'd like to also ask you about some of your work you've done in environmental protection and environmental policy.

Christopher Towler: With your legislative agenda focusing most recently on sort of electric vehicles, EVs, and working toward air quality and climate, calls for the state can you maybe respond to concerns about how sort of the power grid across the state a grid already stretched in due to difficulties with things such as summer heat can handle, sort of this push towards EVs and the creation of a charging infrastructure.

[23:08]

ASM Kevin McCarty: Yeah, I know I'm, I'm really proud of what California has done in the environmental world. Tackling climate change, you know real local issues like air pollution. You know we need to address this from the global perspective, of course, but California has been leading the way. And, these things aren't going to happen overnight. So yeah, I'm, I'm a big, you know, supporter and champion of, you know, tackling this through, you know the biggest driver of bad air, and our, you know, climate challenges--automobiles, mobile sources. And so how do you do that, you know, get clean cars. And so, I worked on legislation, offered it, and it was uh codified this year by the State Air Resources Board that that's California on a path by 2030 to have one hundred percent clean cars as far as cars sold. And so, it that gives us a multiyear on

ramp to make it happen. It's not gonna happen overnight. These are just new cars, so it'll be existing cars on the road, for you know, maybe decade or two after that as well.

ASM Kevin McCarty: And so, I'm pleased so far what we've been able to do with infrastructure and charging infrastructure. But it's going to basically be a phased in, a phased in approach. Um, yeah, we are going to have to step up and look at the grid capacity. California. That's a challenge. But I see that less of a challenge than doing nothing, and having our environment go to go to crap, and you know, not having it at, you know sustainable world for the next generation. So, it's a challenge and a risk that I'll take because the flip side is way, way worse. You know, with rising temperatures and the impact on fires and floods. And, you know all the catastrophic impacts with climate change. So, I think we see a stay of the course. But there's work to be done. I've done a few bills to help make it easier to streamline to pay for charging infrastructure. You know, I think people who have resources, they can figure it out, like a lot of things in life. You will with money. But what happens to people living apartments? We know what are they charged right now? You know three cores of people that have electric cars charge at home that you get. You can plug in to your house and you know, charge your car roughly the full thing overnight without getting one of the fancy charges that cost one hundred dollars, just using your traditional plug in your garage. But some people live in apartments, and how do they do that? So, you know we do have to work, sort these things out. But I'm confident that will rise to the challenge.

[25:57]

Christopher Towler: The issues with the regional power grid have sort of plagued California for a while. So, if this is an area for which those issues can be highlighted once more and dealt with it. It can only benefit the State in the long run.

ASM Kevin McCarty: Yeah, the Governor signed one of my bills last year which does just that, which has the energy commission utilities look at data and analyze what's been happening so far in this electric space as far as charging and basically planning out where to go in the coming years.

[26:33]

Christopher Towler: Additionally, are there other areas you or your colleagues are working with, that are aiming to progress sort of environmental policy when it comes to client change-- such as other areas that contribute to greenhouse gas emissions nearly as much as transportation areas like electrical power or industrial discharges of waste?

ASM Kevin McCarty: Yeah, I think one of the ongoing issues that we're doing is focusing on, you know, not just overall environment. But how certain communities feel this, so environmental justice movement. Um, you know. I know this firsthand. When I was a councilmember there was a big, you know corporation that wanted to basically create an underground natural gas storage tanks, and you know, caverns under a neighborhood, and guess what the neighborhood looked like. It wasn't the rich neighborhood of fab forty's Sacramento, or Land Park, Natomas.

ASM Kevin McCarty: It was the lower income Southeast Sacramento, or eighty percent of the residents were black and brown and lower income Southeast Asian. And so, you know that's what happens. And so, you know we are working on that from a statewide level, and I think that

that's key. The bill we passed last year on, on, on wells, oil wells next to neighborhoods, having adequate distance, buffers, I think that's the key piece of the puzzle as well.

ASM Kevin McCarty: So, you know, we've really stretched last ten years on the environment, California, with our policies, and I think right now it's a lot of just implementing those pieces. But you know we will continue to see what we can do, to make a difference for Californians for a greener future.

Christopher Towler: Yeah, absolutely.

[28:27]

Christopher Towler: As we come to sort of the conclusion of our discussion. I'd like to ask about a policy issue that's been on my mind recently, and then give you a chance to discuss anything you believe is important, or you would like to speak to before we finish.

Christopher Towler: For me the State of California has sort of once again taken the lead when it comes to progressive policy this time, when it comes to reparations for black Americans in in an Executive Summary report created as part of AB 3121's task force, and the push to examine the potential reparations in the State of California. Findings proclaimed the racial wealth gap between white and black households are the same today as it had been two years before the Civil Rights Act was passed in 1964, and specifically in the city of Los Angeles the median value of liquid assets for black Americans household is a mere \$200, compared to \$110,000 for white households.

Christopher Towler: The report goes on to recommend the implementation of a detailed program of reparations for Black Californians. Yet, it kind of does little to provide real concrete examples of policy reform that are not universal in their application. For example, sort of free mental health services for all Californians. So, in your opinion, the preparations for Black California are a real possibility in the near future? And do you see such a policy attempting to provide resources as focused racial policy, or more as universal policy intended to help Black people in sort of disproportionate ways.

[29:57]

ASM Kevin McCarty: Yeah, no, I'm proud that we were able to lean in and start this this national discussion on reparations. And again, like I said earlier, it was the policy window that made it this happen, you know. But for that summer of George Floyd in in 2020 that COVID year this bill would not have passed. You know ethnic studies were not a pass. My Voting Rights Bill in the past the police reforms passed. So, I think the lens for this is crystal clear.

ASM Kevin McCarty: Now I did another bill on the racial covenants of the people property in California, and how this, how the redlining had an impact on where people could buy homes. And this really is this whole thing with reparations. So, after you know the Civil Rights era, and allowed, you know, African Americans to buy homes. You know we bought the neighborhoods, that didn't have the same appreciation. And so, this has a generational impact. So, it takes real a deep dive to figure out how we can make a difference in these issues.

ASM Kevin McCarty: Like here in Sacramento we've given licenses, for example, for marijuana for, for the cannabis industry to individuals and communities that are impacted by the war on drugs. So, for the predominantly, a lot of African American communities, but giving somebody a license to open a dispensary is useless unless they have basically connections to, to borrow money, to open the business to start it. And so, you can't just give somebody a paper and say good luck go at it, and you know, a year later the business will never really have had taken off.

ASM Kevin McCarty: And so, there are so many intricate pieces of this, and we're going to have to take a look. What does that mean? Is it access to higher education? Um, resources? You know, how does this play into with new laws that are coming down the books to for, or coming potentially coming off the books across America, as far as affirmative action, racial policy, so like there are many pieces of the puzzle.

ASM Kevin McCarty: But I think the biggest thing, and not just to minimize. You know the outcome. The outcomes of this is that we're actually talking about it. We're having a process to bring up these potential solutions. So, I'm optimistic that we're able to really reflect back on the history of our country, and how the impacts, you know, hundred years, later, one hundred years later, sometimes or more, are still a reality in too many communities across California.

[32:35]

Christopher Towler: Californians should definitely stand tall and taking the lead on this policy front, I think. Some takeaways that come to mind from this conversation is not only the legislative agenda that you've taken on, and you've pushed for and accomplished so far, but also the role that that citizens and historical moments play. And there is a real connection. If you've made clear between what's going on the grassroots level in the communities, and how those movements, social movements, protests, can influence law and can actually create contexts, political and environmental context that facilitate law making in ways that wouldn't otherwise be possible. So, it's great to hear that connection come to life, in your own experiences.

ASM Kevin McCarty: Thank you absolutely.

Christopher Towler: Lastly, are there any other issues or topics that you'd like to discuss or sort of make our listeners aware of before we conclude this podcast.

[33:35]

ASM Kevin McCarty: Well, your listeners, in addition to all these other issues, are interested in going to college, regardless of their of their major and their passion. So that is one of my top priorities, and one of the things I'm really going to be zeroing in on my last four years in the Legislature is college access and college affordability. I've made significant strides in this, we have in California and I'm looking to continue efforts to expand financial aid through our Cal Grant program or Middle-Class Scholarship program to make college truly debt-free in California. And then there's a debate the National Level for Free College. Some of our progressive Congressional members, Bernie Sanders AOC, you know, talk about that. That'd be great. I'm not sure if it's if it's a realistic. I'm not sure if it really makes sense. I don't know if my

kids you know it does. I'd like to have free college for them, but you know I'd rather have California use those scarce dollars to maybe expand financial aid for people that need a bit more.

ASM Kevin McCarty: And so that's what we're looking about doing, not having free college, but debt-free. What does that mean it means that called students can get their Cal Grant pay their share based upon their family income, you know. Let's say, work fifteen hours a week and get an additional grant on top of the Cal Grants, and they could literally graduate without any debt.

ASM Kevin McCarty: And then they could be on to the workforce and good job, and be able to potentially buy a house, and, you know, live the American dream without being saddled with twenty, thirty, forty thousand dollars or more. If you're a professor like your level in debt. Um. So that is my what is my big college quest. The governor is open to it, you see, is already talking about this as well as the CSU system. So, stay tuned for that for our big uh debt-free college proposal. I'll be introducing, you know a simple version of the bill when we start the session this month, and we'll be expanding upon the details of what it looks like in the coming months.

Christopher Towler: Right, well absolutely stay tuned. And catching that, you said your final four years in office. So, we thank you for your long career of service, and we would just want to thank Assembly Member McCarty for taking the time to talk with us today, and we want to thank you for listening. We hope our ongoing conversations, spark understandings, empathy and motivation, to join the struggle for a better future, for all.