

59TH ANNUAL HUMANITARIAN

AWARDS CELEBRATION

SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

TRIBUTE JOURNAL

Celebrating
Contributions to the
Community

Thank you to our Tustice Partners!

CCEJ believes we all share the responsibility to make our workplaces, organizations, and communities as inclusive as possible.

Thank you, Justice Partners, for joining us in this work and for supporting CCEJ's mission to educate and empower youth and adults to lead change for equity and justice in our communities.













To learn more and to join our network of Justice Partners, please visit our website at www.cacej.org/justice-partners

59TH ANNUAL HUMANITARIAN AWARDS CELEBRATION

SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

Honoring



Dr. Keith Curry
Humanitarian Award



Rabbi Howard Laibson
Humanitarian Award



Valerie Dickson
Gene Lentzner
Human Relations Award



LA vs. Hate
Building Bridges Award

Welcome

The California Conference for Equality and Justice (CCEJ) warmly welcomes you to our 59th Humanitarian Awards Celebration, highlighting the contributions of this year's Humanitarian Award honorees, who have dedicated their lives and careers to equality and justice: **Dr. Keith Curry** and **Rabbi Howard Laibson**.

We are proud to uplift their incredible leadership and humanitarian efforts in our communities.

This year, we are delighted to honor **Valerie Dickson** with the Gene Lenztner Human Relations Award for her dedication to promoting equity and justice, and to positively impacting the lives of her students, peers, and community.

CCEJ also proudly presents the Building Bridges Award to **LA vs. Hate**, in appreciation for their commitment to rooting out hate and building respectful and resilient communities.

Since 1963, CCEJ has worked to educate and empower youth and adults to lead change for equity and justice in our communities. Today's event raises funds to support CCEJ's programs year-round. Thanks to you, we will be able to sustain our work, innovate, and meet the increased demand for dialogue, education and training for youth and adults. We serve more than 4,000 people each year, building toward our vision of a world where people live free of oppression and thrive.

On behalf of CCEJ's Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and the many people that you help us serve, thank you for joining us today!



Reena Hajat Carroll,

OMSO

CCEJ Executive Director



Megan Kerr
Chair, Board of
Directors

Event Program

Welcome

Dr. Mike Muñoz Event Emcee

Building Bridges (Award

LA vs. Hate accepted by Robin Toma LA Human Relations Commission Executive Director

Gene Lentzner Human Relations (Award

Valerie Dickson

CCEJ PRESENTATION

Humanitarian (Award

Dr. Keith Curry Rabbi Howard Laibson

CLOSING



Thank you to our event emcee!

Dr. Mike Muñoz

Superintendent- President Long Beach City College

CC&J Staff

Michael Aranda
Reena Hajat Carroll
Alejandro Haezaert-House
Monica Lopez
Jessy Needham

Sarah Ogdie Serena Padilla Kathleah Pagdilao Sarah Rana Vanessa Rodriguez

Lauren Snook
Daniel Solís
Donna Jamshidnejad Stewart
Tobías Vasquez
Narges Zagub

Board of Directors

Megan Kerr Chair Hank Feldman Secretary

Desarie Gonzales
Treasurer

Rabbi Howard Laibson Mar Past Chair At-

Matthew Rafalow
At-Large Member

Lisa Bourne
Dr. Tiffany Brown
Dwight Beasley

Dr. Rashida Crutchfield Rabbi Scott Fox Dr. Mike Muñoz

Carol Hass Elizabeth Lindh Gillian Medina Dr. Shireen Pavri

Jeff Schaffer

Drew Schneider

Dr. Shauntina Sorrells

Advisory Committee

Rich Archbold
Dr. Virginia Baxter
Craig Cross
Dr. Minnie Douglas
Rosecarrie Brooks

Dana Buchanan

Dave Kinnear

Rich Lipeles

Nancy Manriquez-Dowell

Braden Phillips

Naomi Rainey-Pierson
Jill Rosenberg
Robert Stemler
Dr. Mike Walter
Jim Zehmer

Special Thanks

Dr. Rashida Crutchfield | Carol Hass | Ama Tupu
Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn
Rosecarrie Brooks | Gail Meredith | Jill Rosenberg
Photos by Dee
University Trophies and Awards
Museum of Latin American Art

THANK YOU TO OUR **SPONSORS**

UNITY SPONSORS



The Matthew & Roberta Jenkins Family Foundation



HOPE SPONSORS













JUSTICE SPONSORS

Binnie & Jack Berro and Family Rosecarrie and Dr. Alan Brooks Rabbi Howard Laibson Suzanne Nosworthy









COMMUNITY SPONSORS



Mutual of America **Financial Group**

LONG BEACH CITY COLLEGE



Hank and Joyce Feldman Rabbi Leah Kroll Dr. Michael Zeldin Special Service for Groups, Inc. District 5

BUILDING BRIDGES AWARD



LA us. Hate

LA vs Hate is a community-centered program designed to support all residents of Los Angeles County. Led by the LA County Human Relations Commission, LA vs Hate partners with community partners from all five County districts, representing a diverse coalition of voices committed to ending hate. By tracking and reporting hate, the coalition ensures that resources are allocated appropriately, that those targeted by hate receive the support they need, that offenders are held accountable, and that together, we can build respectful and resilient communities. The goals of the LA vs. Hate campaign are to address the normalization of hate and inspire people to stand up to it; build understanding about what constitutes a hate act and how to report it; and support individuals and communities as they heal from the trauma of hate.

*Award accepted by Robin Toma, LA County Human Relations
Commission

GENE LENTZNER HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD



Valerie Dickson

Valerie Dickson's passion for social justice began one afternoon many years ago after watching the movie Do the Right Thing by Spike Lee. As a Bi-racial adolescent she began to recognize how we co-exist with diverse people and yet never really connect - barriers related to race, gender, class, religion, age, ability, nationality and sexual orientation keep us living insulated, fearful lives and often our interaction with others is rooted in stereotypes and prejudices rather than actual knowledge of the 'other'.

Valerie has spent nearly 30 years volunteering and working with nonprofit organizations like the California Conference for Equality and Justice to help people, communities and organizations engage in uncomfortable but critical social justice dialogues. Valerie believes that people do not change because they are shamed into change - rather people change because growth is the natural state of humans. Dr. Maya Angelou said, "When You Know Better, Do Better" and Valerie believes that dialogues are the key to all of us 'knowing better and doing better'. Valerie cannot do this work without the love and support of her fiancé, her 3 children, 2 bonus children, her mother, and the Fly Crew.

HUMANITARIAN AWARD



Dr. Keith Curry

Dr. Keith Curry is the President of the Compton College and CEO of the Compton Community College District. Dr. Curry has been recognized regionally and nationally for his integrity, principle, compassion, and his strength in leadership. He prioritizes student-centered policies that produce equitable outcomes and expand opportunities for Californians.

Compton College is the 114th California Community College, achieving initial accreditation status on June 7, 2017. Dr. Curry is responsible for overseeing all departments and functions of Compton College and the District and serves as secretary for the CCCD Board of Trustees. He brings an abundance of energy and innovative ideas to Compton College, along with a wealth of experience as a postsecondary education administrator. Dr. Curry is an active member of the Foundation for Compton Community College District, the Association of California Community College Administrators, the California Community College Athletic Association, the Statewide Association of Community Colleges (SWACC), the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice Advisory Board, and the President's Roundtable. He has participated on Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) Visiting Teams, most recently for San Quentin University Prison Project. In June 2020, Dr. Curry was invited by Governor Newsom's Senior Policy Advisor for Higher Education Lande Ajose to serve on the California Higher Education Recovery with Equity Task Force. Dr. Curry earned his doctorate in educational leadership from the University of California, Irvine, and a bachelor's degree in American studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Dr. Curry is an adjunct faculty member for the Charter College of Education at California State University, Los Angeles.

HUMANITARIAN AWARD



Rabbi Howard Laibson

Rabbi Howard O. Laibson has devoted his life and career as a community leader to Jewish diversity, interfaith communication, intergroup relations and religious education. Ordained as a rabbi in 1981, Rabbi Laibson's community involvement began long before that. As a child growing up in Downey, California, he spent his summers at Camp Swig: A Camp for Living Judaism, over the years morphing from camper to counselor and eventually song leader and program director. In the 1970's, as the Southern California youth director for the Reform Jewish movement and coordinated a summer program which brought Jewish youth to Los Angeles to volunteer in Black and Latinx communities.

In addition to his rabbinic education, Rabbi Laibson earned a degree in Community Studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz (1971), MA in Counseling from California State University at Northridge (1975) and a Master's degree in Rabbinic Literature from Hebrew Union College (1979). Rabbi Laibson has served congregations in Texas, New Mexico, Long Beach and Lakewood, using his unique blend of counseling, teaching and musical skills to guide him. He retired and became Congregation Shir Chadash's Rabbi Emeritus in June, 2015. Rabbi Laibson has served on numerous Boards, including Jewish Long Beach (formerly known as The Jewish Federation) from 2007-2017, the Pacific Association of Reform Rabbis, and the South Coast Interfaith Council, where he became the first non-Christian president in 2006. He has served on the Board of the California Conference for Equality and Justice (CCEJ) since 1990, and was Chairperson from 2020-2023, helping the organization navigate the COVID pandemic and create a new strategic plan for CCEJ's future work.

Past Honorees

HUMANITARIAN AWARD

1964

Maurice Harris* Dr. Carl McIntosh* Herman Ridder *

1965

Blanche Collins* David Feuer* W. A. Harrington*

1966

Harry Buffum* Harvey B. Franklin* RADM. Ned W. Sprow*

1967

Msgr. B.J. Dolan* William J. Mooney* Charles Savitz *

1968

Burton Chace* Joseph A. Ball* Polly Chace*

1969

C. LeRoy Doty, Jr.* John R. Mansell* Irving Schneider *

1970

Henry H. Clock* Judge Max Z. Wisot*

1971

Loraine Miller Collins* Roy L. Anderson* Myron Blumberg*

1972

Revan D. Komaroff* Dr. James* & Virginia* Brennan Msgr. James P. Lynch* Judge Beach Vasey*

1973

Robert Baldwin* Ida Frances Lowry* Bernard E. McCune *

1974

Edwin C. Bechler* Judge Charles Litwin* Vaile G. Young *

1975

Fred Neuburger* Ray Stricklin* Edwin W. Wade *

1976

Mary D. Butler* Dr. Orville W. Cole* Rabbi Sidney Guthman* Daniel H. Ridder*

1977

Eugene Lentzner* Weckford Morgan* Sister Mary Timothy*

1978

Helen Crehan* Allan R. Ide * Eugene Schlesinger *

1979

Raymond L. Monnahan* Charles F. Severson* Roselle Sommer*

1980

Olga P. Bowers* Rabbi Wolli Kaelter* Jean Bixby Smith

1981

Stanley V. Goldin* Kenneth T. Norris* Frani Ridder

1982

J.S. "Bud" Holton* C. Robert Langslet* Dr. Jules Robbins*

1983

Sr. Mary Alphonsus* George* & Gloria Deukmejian Alex Horowitz* Msgr. Ernest J. Gualderon*

1984

Judge Robert Parkin* James Gray Arthur Miller*

1985

Emanuel Gyler* Dr. John Kashiwabara*

1986

Judge Sheila Pokras James Willingham* Dorothy Wise*

1987

Dr. Malcolm* & Ruth* Todd George & Joyce Murchison Robert* & Jean* Blakey

1988

Jack Jacobs* Robert Creighton* Ruth Wright*

1989

James P. Zarifes* G.A. Walker* Roger Reyburn* Renee Simon

1990

Sister Mary Lucille Desmond* William C. Barnes* Dr. Seymour Alban*

1991

Michael Choppin* Evelyn Dempsey duPont* Dr. Beverly O'Neill Tilly Weil*

1992

Jack & Binnie Berro Eunice Sato* William Rusnack Bishop Carl A. Fisher *

1993

Dr. June Cooper* Dr. Jim & Nancy Linden RADM John * & Nancy* Higginson USN (ret)

1994

Don Haller Carl Cohn, Ed.D. Josephine Gumbiner * Mort Stuhlbarg*

1995

Audrey Langslet* Gordon Lentzner Allan Tebbetts * Marie Treadwell

1996

Rev. Ken McMillan* Suzanne Nosworthy Henry Taboada Dr. David Tillman

1997

Carmen O. Perez Steve Oettinger Jill Rosenberg

1998

Ray * & Barbara* Alpert Gloria Cordero Luciann Maulhardt Ken Walker

1999

Karl W.E. Anatol Bernie Jones* Arlene Solomon* Mary Soth*

2000

Skip Keesal Richard Lipeles Ernest McBride* Myrna Wigod*

2001

Betty Eastman Todd Maycie Herrington* Judith Lentzner Robert Maxson, Ph.D.

2002

Diane C. Creel Jeanne Karatsu Dr. Joseph M. Molina Joseph Prevratil

2003

Frank Berry Lyn Epstein The Hon. Alan Lowenthal Kimball Wasick

2004

John Blowitz Barbara & Ned Gaylord Barbara & Larry Jackson Zelma Lipscomb*

2005

Stephen Gordon Elizabeth & John Hancock Alan Nishio Robert Stemler

2006

Sara Wenkle Kaplan* Jane Netherton Sande & Larry Rice Arline & Dr. Mike Walter

2007

Dr. Minnie Douglas Jim Hankla Dr. E. Jan Kehoe Lillian Sachs*

2008

Jack Hinsche Roberta & Matthew* Jenkins Ron Piazza Doris Topsy-Elvord*

2009

Dr. Virginia Baxter Dr. Bryna Kane Vera Mulkey Doug Otto & Freda Hinsche Otto

2010

Mary Alice Braly Dr. Ebenezer Bush* Julie & Don Knabe Shirley Wild

2011

Stephen M. Goodling Amy Lipeles Christopher Steinhauser Marlene & Don* Temple 2012

Rich Archbold Mike Murray Richard Steinke Rocky Suares

2013

F. King Alexander Ivy Goolsby Christopher Lytle Judy Ross

2014

Joyce & Hank Feldman Nancy & Bob Foster Lynne Pillsbury Felton Williams

2015

Margie & Frank Newell Naomi Rainey-Pierson Braden Phillips Drs. Martha & Faustino Bernadett

2016

Liz & Jim Breslauer Terry Geilina Chief Robert Luna Darick Simpson

2017

Theresa Bixby Michele A. Dobson Don & Carl Ann Wylie

2018

Sofia Riley Cynthia Terry Jim Zehmer

2019

Dr. Jane Close Conoley Rev. Dr. Phyllis Hayes Reams Kevin & Jennifer Peterson

2021

Wini Carter Annette Kashiwabara Cindy & Servando Orozco

2022

Rosecarrie Brooks Gail Meredith

Past Honorees

GENE LENTZNER HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD

1988

Gene Lentzner*

1989

Anthony Rogers* Prany Sananikone

1990

Steve Blancarte Debra Crockett Nancy Gray

1991

Mary Brizzolara Jan Foster* Virginia Williams

1992

Sen. Bonnie Lowenthal Dr. Randolph Ward Lt. Linda Fierro

1993

Lillian Lew Toby Rothschild Olivia Herrera

1994

Yolanda Benavidez Dwight Prince Sandra Arun San

1995

Rev. Joe Ealy Maria Flores Miller Hy & Janice Sunshine

1996

Elisa Ann Nicholas, MD Teresa Gonzalez James R. Porter* 1997

Ron Arias Dennis Thys Mary Fehr

1998

Bryant Ben Alvin Bernstein Erin Gruwell

1999

Paul C. Blanco Lt. Joseph Levy Chantara Nop

2000

Jacob Green Rachel Plotkin Dave San Jose

2001

H.J. Green Maria Norvell Melanie Washington

2002

Jeffrey M.Cornejo, Ed,.D Raymond Chavarria Joanne O'Byrne

2003

Sun-Himm Chhim Arlene K. Mercer Autrilla Watkins Scott*

2004

Rev. Ginny Wagner Mel R. Collins Evangelina Ramirez 2005

Willa Heart Rev. Larry Ginn Amelia Nieto

2006

Rosa Cortez Stella Faye Davis Alice Robinson Lysa Gamboa-Levy

2007

Faye & Frank Clark Naomi Rainey Jan Ward

2008

Ines Echegaray Maria Giesey* Lydia Hollie

2009

Rev. Sunshine Daye Chan Hopson Dora Jacildo

2010

Martha Cota John Malveaux Sara Pol-Lim

2011

Alicia Carrera Anita Gibbins Lt. Ty Hatfield

2012

Francisco Rodriguez
Doris Cooper–Robinson
Justin Rudd

2013

LaVerne Duncan Roberta Lanterman Candace Meehan

2014

Arnel Calvario Lian Cheun Anitra Dempsey

2015

Bill Cruikshank Jessica Quintana Matthew A. Saldana

2016

Porter Gilberg Heather Green Mary Zendejas

2017

Marsha Gail Chapman Rebecca Suzanne Caverly David J. Fernandez

2018

Marisol Barajas Emily Grijalva Latino Muslim Unity Hieu Nguyen

2019

Marianne Drummond Susana Sngiem Dr. Shay Sorrells

2022

Rodney Jones

* Deceased

BUILDING BRIDGES AWARD

Long Beach Unified School District
Los Altos United Methodist Church
St. Mary Medical Center
McDonnell Douglas
Press-Telegram
Southern California
Edison
TABC

Long Beach Police Dept.
McDonnell Douglas
Employees Community Fund
Toyota Motor Sales

GTE

City of Long Beach The Boeing Company SISCO Keesal, Young & Logan Molina Healthcare, Inc.

Foundation CSULB

Greater Long Beach

Dwight Stuart Youth Fund Long Beach City College Port of Long Beach The California Endowment TABC

Barbara & Ray Alpert Foundation
Leadership Long Beach
Community hospital Long Beach
Assistance League of Long Beach
Rotary Club of Long Beach
MemorialCare Long Beach
Medical Center
Performance Plus Tire
The Rudolph J. and Daphne A.
Munzer Foundation
ABC Unified School District

HENRY MEYER YOUTH AWARD

Adonis Rubio
Dezmin Hemmans
Taizin Barnhardt
Lupe Granados
Josh Aguilar
Ryann Bonner



The Center for Equitable Higher Education (CEHE) at Cal State Long Beach would like to congratulate

Dr. Keith Curry - President of Compton College

Recipient of the 59th Annual Humanitarian Award

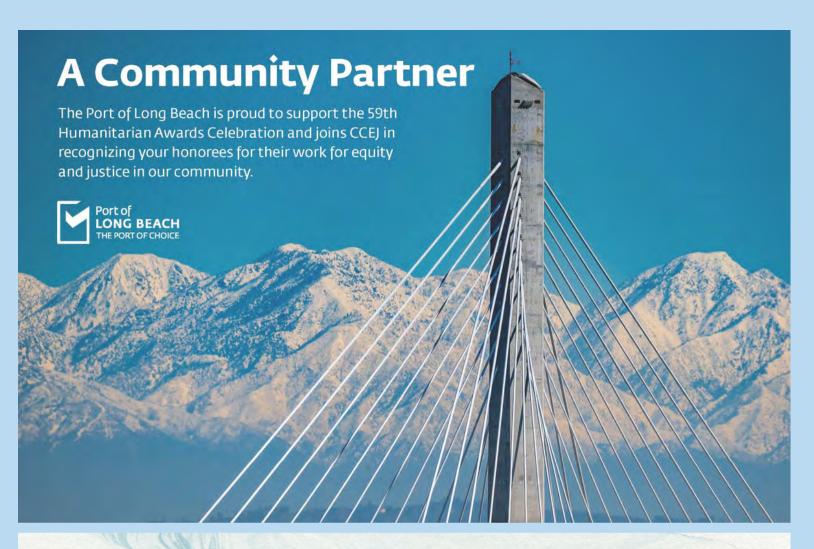


Thank you for being an all-star of the student basic needs movement and champion of racial equity in higher education!

With gratitude,

Dr. Rashida Crutchfield and the CEHE team





Congratulations to this year's honorees:

Dr. Keith Curry
Rabbi Howard Laibson
Valerie Dickson
LA vs. Hate

Your dedication to promoting equity and justice is inspiring to all. Thank you for your work.



is proud to support

CCEJ's work to

lead change for equity and justice.

Rabbi Howard Laibson,
Valerie Dickson and Dr. Keith Curry,
thank you for all that you do to change the world.

Community Works Consulting serves the nonprofit sector with the mission to help nonprofit and philanthropic organizations to be strong, powerful change makers.

Let us know if we can help you change the world

www.communityworksconsulting.org









249 E. Ocean Boulevard • Long Beach • 562-436-9800





We join in support of CCEJ's vision of a world where people live free of oppression and thrive.

Congratulations to the honorees

Dr. Keith Curry
Rabbi Howard Laibson
Valerie Dickson
LA vs. Hate

KEESAL YOUNG LOGAN



Here's to always making a difference.

MemorialCare congratulates this year's honorees for advocating for equality and justice, and for your dedication to improving the communities you serve. We are inspired to show that same dedication across all 225 of our locations.

MemorialCare.org





Proudly Congratulates the 59th Annual



Humanitarian Award Honorees

Dr. Keith Curry Rabbi Howard Laibson

Gene Lentzner Human Relations Award

Valerie Dickson
Building Bridges Award

LA vs. Hate

The Matthew & Roberta Jenkins Family Foundation congratulates this year's honorees for the 59th Humanitarian Awards Celebration.



We join in unity for CCEJ's mission to educate and empower youth and adults to lead change in our communities.

It's About The Journey –
Mine And Yours –
And The Lives We Can Touch,
The Legacy We Can Leave, And
The World We Can Change For
The Better.

Rabbi Howard And Honorees,
Our Congratulations And
Heartfelt Thanks,

Binnie & Jack Berro

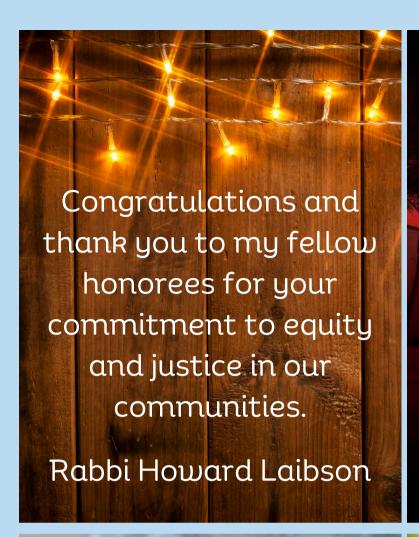
Congratulations to this year's honorees!

My heartfelt appreciation to the honorees for their many contributions to our community and beyond.

Rosecarrie and Dr. Alan Brooks









CONGRATULATES CCEJ'S
2023 HUMANITARIAN AWARD
HONOREES

DR. KEITH CURRY
VALERIE DICKSON
LA VS. HATE
RABBI HOWARD LAIBSON

YOU **Belong** AT LONG BEACH CITY COLLEGE LBCC.edu

Congratulations to
Dr. Keith Curry,
Rabbi Howard Laibson,
Valerie Dickson,
and LA vs. Hate for a
well-deserved honor.





Congratulations to all of the 2023 award recipients!

Evergreen Alliance is proud to support CCEJ's important mission!

www.EvergreenAllianceCPA.com



CONGRATULATIONS

TO TODAY'S HONOREES

DR. KEITH CURRY VALERIE DICKSON RABBI HOWARD LAIBSON

LA VS. HATE



Equity and justice for all communities are at the heart of our work to serve as a safety net for our 10 million residents. That's why I'm proud to support the shared vision and extraordinary service of leaders like Valerie, Dr. Curry, Rabbi Laibson and of organizations like LA vs. Hate and CCEJ to empower individuals and communities and to illuminate the darkness. Thank you.



Valerie Dickson CONGRATULATIONS

On receiving the Gene Lentzner Human Relations Award! You truly embody human relations in all that you do. We at Groundswell are honored to join you in creating a more equitable future!





scan to learn more!

GROUNDSWELL

www.wearegroundswell.org

Honoring those who drive humanity forward.

Congratulations from Long Beach Transit.





We're proud to share CCEJ's Strategic Plan 2023-2027



MISSION STATEMENT

To educate and empower youth and adults to lead change for equity and justice in our communities.



VISION STATEMENT

A world where people live free of oppression and thrive.



full strategic plan!

CCEJ'S IMPACT

800

the criminal legal system since 2013

23,000 Building Bridges Camp since 1993

10,000

adults trained to create and workplaces since 2018

OUR VALUES

Relationships Care Curiosity **Accountability Imagination** Interdependence



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

TELLING OUR STORY

As CCEJ deepens expands our work, we will strengthen our internal capacity to measure and assess our programs and increase the visibility of CCEJ and our impact more broadly. This strategic priority will help us tell our story more effectively, with a focus on branding, communications and program evaluation.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

CCEJ's youth programs are well-known for building their understanding of racism and other forms of oppression, In our plan, we will create more intentional pathways for youth to remain in relationship and community with CCEJ, supporting them in their growth as leaders and change agents for equity and justice in their colleges and workplaces. We will also expand our support for the young people we serve in our Youth Diversion program who have contact with or are impacted by the criminal legal system.

INSTITUTIONAL TRANSFORMATION

CCEJ has a long history of training and empowering adults to challenge the systems in which they operate to promote equity and justice. With this strategic priority, we will build upon our successful adult training and coaching services to create deeper, change within critical systemic institutions, particularly schools, nonprofits, and the juvenile criminal legal system. We will develop a intentionally institutions and structures towards equity and justice, working in partnership with institutions create systemic change.



The California Conference for Equality and Justice (CCEJ) is dedicated to educating and empowering youth and adults to lead change for equity and justice in our communities.

3605 Long Beach Blvd., Suite 100 Long Beach, CA 90807

562.435.8184 | www.cacej.org



