



### ***California Education Policy Fellowship Program Announces 2017-18 Fellows***

Sacramento, California (July 5, 2017) – The California Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP), a professional development initiative for leaders in education policy, has selected its [Fellows for 2017-18](#). This will be the second cohort of Fellows since the program began in fall 2016. Over the next academic year, 20 California leaders from K-12 and higher education, executive and legislative branches of government, and education policy-related nonprofits will explore education priorities, opportunities and challenges related to supporting students across the K-16 education pipeline, and policy responses to improve student success.

“Based on the experiences of our inaugural cohort of Fellows, this program helps leaders to be systems thinkers and to approach issues from a variety of perspectives,” said Andrea Venezia, executive director of the Education Insights Center (EdInsights), an education policy center at Sacramento State that is jointly leading the program with Sacramento State’s Center for California Studies.

Through interactive sessions, EPFP Fellows explore current topics related to student success, engage with experts in education policy, and complete projects with other Fellows. The curriculum emphasizes collaboration across systems and improving both policy development and implementation. While the program is tailored to California, Fellows join a national network of approximately 300 current Fellows and more than 3,000 alumni from 17 other EPFP sites across the country led by the [Institute for Educational Leadership](#). Fellows will learn about federal K-12 policy and connect with this greater network through the Washington Policy Seminar in March 2018.

“With the program’s emphasis on policy, leadership, and networking, these leaders will gain new knowledge about education policy and practice, and they will have a strong network to make improvements for students,” said Steve Boilard, executive director of the Center for California Studies.

California EPFP is part of a growing set of efforts across the country to use networks as a critical instrument for social and systems change. The program is creating a platform for California education leaders to identify shared interests, think across systems and become boundary crossers, and collaborate for the common good of public education in the state.

*The [Center for California Studies](#) bridges academia and government in the service of strengthening California's democracy. It does this by preparing future leaders, promoting civic literacy, and facilitating policy research and productive dialogue. [EdInsights](#) aims to inform and improve policymaking and practice for K-12 education, community colleges, and public universities. EdInsights' portfolio of applied research, evaluations, and capacity-building initiatives helps to inform the curricula, speakers, recruitment, and other facets of California EPFP.*

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