

# PE-OYCR FORUM AGENDA 2026



March 13, 8:30 a.m.-2:50 p.m.  
Cal Poly Pomona Kellogg Conference Center

## SB 823 Progress Report

8:00 a.m.	Refreshments
8:30 a.m.	<b>Welcome:</b> Dr. Renford Reese, Founder/Director, Prison Education Project, Professor, Cal Poly Pomona; Dr. Terri Gomez, Provost, Cal Poly Pomona
8:35 a.m.	<b>Moderator:</b> Tyee Griffith, Visiting Dean of Equitable and Inclusive College Pathways, California Community College (CCC) Chancellor's Office
8:40 a.m.	<b>SB 823 Historical Context:</b> Dr. Heather Bowlds, Former Director, CDCR's Division of Juvenile Justice, Current Deputy Director, CDCR's Division of Adult Parole Operations
8:50 a.m.	<b>Current Overview:</b> Judge Katherine Lucero, Director, Office of Youth & Community Restoration, "Overview of OYCR"
9:00 a.m.	<b>Panel #1:</b> "OYCR's Challenges & Achievements & 2026 Agenda with SB 823 Population" Facilitator, Melanie Cruz: OYCR Panel, Dr. Michael Massa, Health Policy Division Chief, Angeles Zaragoza, Less Restrictive Programs Subject Matter Expert
9:25 a.m.	<b>Panel #2:</b> "Objectives of the Rising Scholars Network & the 2026 Agenda" Facilitator, Tarik Ross: Chelsea Esquibias, Senior Advisor to the California Community College's Chancellor for Rising Scholars Programs & Strategic Operations, Crystal Navarro, CCC Regional Rising Scholars Coordinator, Sara Rodriguez, Regional Coordinator Rising Scholars, CCC Chancellor's Office, Ashley Gerdo, Regional Coordinator, CCC Rising Scholars Coordinator, Inland Empire/San Diego, Lisa Gallardo, Chancellors Office, Rising Scholars Specialist
10:00 a.m.	<b>Panel #3:</b> "A Progress Report: Five Years of SYTF from a Public Defender's Perspective" Facilitator, Melanie Cruz: Attorney Liz Braunstein, Deputy Public Defender, Los Angeles County, SYTF Unit, Luis Rodriguez, Youth Services Division Chief, Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office
10:20 a.m.	<b>Panel #4:</b> "The Transformative Power of Higher Education" Facilitator, Tarik Ross: Formerly Incarcerated Students: Brett May, Eliena Ruiz, Paul Dickson, Tamir Williams
10:50 a.m.	<b>Panel #5:</b> "Best Practices in Motivating & Enrolling SYTF Population in College" Facilitator, Cynthia Chavez: Rahman Williams, Manager, Education Services, Los Angeles County Probation, Michael Palmer, Division Director, Monterey County Probation Department, Jovan Rodriguez, Director of Academic Affairs, Rising Scholars & Juvenile Justice, Hartnell Community College
11:20 a.m.	<b>Panel #6:</b> "The Mission & Achievements of Project Rebound" Facilitator, Jessica Castillo: Project Rebound Directors, Irene Sotelo, Cal State Long Beach, Michael Griggs, Cal State San Bernardino, Priscilla Garcia, Cal Poly Pomona, Aaron Greene, Sacramento State
11:50 a.m.	<b>Panel #7:</b> "Educational Programming with the SYTF Population" Facilitator, Tarik Ross: Impactful Activities Inside Facilities and Post-Release, Dr. Thomas Kamara, San Bernardino Probation Department, Falcia Floyd, College Resource Specialist, San Joaquin Juvenile Hall, Scott Sanders,

	Former Deputy Director, Los Angeles County Probation, Maribel Carvajal, Supervising Probation Officer, Imperial County Juvenile Hall “
12:20 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b>
1:10 p.m.	<b>Panel #8:</b> “An Overview of PEP, Reintegration Academy, and Youth RA Activities” Tarik Ross, PEP/Youth RA, Elizabeth Siggins, PEP/RA UC Davis Coordinator, Michelle Sotelo, Coordinator, PEP/RA, Sacramento, Igniting Futures
1:35 p.m.	<b>Panel #9:</b> “An Overview of Impactful Nonprofit Organizations that serve SYTF Youth” Facilitator, Tyee Griffith, Edwin Paragas, Director of Youth Development, Anti-Recidivism Coalition, James Avila, Coordinator, Youth Employment Initiative (YEI), Amity Foundation, Maria Martin, Focus Forward, Fresno County
1:55 p.m.	<b>Panel #10:</b> “Department of Rehabilitation Objectives” Facilitator, Cynthia Chavez: Mirvais ‘Mir’ Aminy, DOR Recipient, Disability Rights Advocate, Program Director Project Rebound, Cal State Fullerton, Alfonso Jimenez, Regional Director, Department of Rehabilitation, Inland Empire/San Bernardino, Elizabeth Musgrove, Chief of Student Services, Department of Rehabilitation
2:20 p.m.	<b>Panel #11:</b> “Overcoming Challenges, Coalescing, and Moving Forward” Mixed Panel Q&A: Facilitator, Tarik Ross: Dr. Michael Massa, OYCR, Health Policy Chief, Irene Sotelo, Director, Project Rebound, Cal State Long Beach, Los Angeles County Probation, Tyee Griffith, CCC Chancellor’s Office, Dr. Daniele Smith-Morton, Professor, San Bernardino Valley College, Visiting Dean of Equitable and Inclusive College Pathways, California Community College (CCC) Chancellor’s Office
2:50 p.m.	<b>Closing Remarks:</b> Tyee Griffith, Dr. Reese