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# GUIDED PATHWAYS TRAILBLAZERS

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Nov. 19, 2020

You can view all previous Trailblazers newsletters on the [Bakersfield College President's Communications Website](#).

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## Greetings Pathways Trailblazers!

Take out your calendars now to reserve time for a conversation on [“The Future of Learning”](#) taking place on December 2, 3, 7, 8, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m PST each day. We’re spreading out these eight hours of conversation on the future of learning over the course of four days, so we don’t turn into Zoom zombies (Zoombies?).

Some of the speakers will cover topics such as:

- the **social construction** of learning,
- **humanizing** online learning,
- **competency-based** education, and
- **microcredentialing** and **badging**

You can [register at this link for free](#).

**ACCJC** presents an online seminar series



Sonya Christian  
Chair  
ACCJC



Stephanie Droker  
President  
ACCJC

## The Future of Learning

Save the Dates  
December 2, 3, 7, & 8, 2020  
2 PM - 4 PM (PST)

<https://accjc.org/learning-seminar-series/>

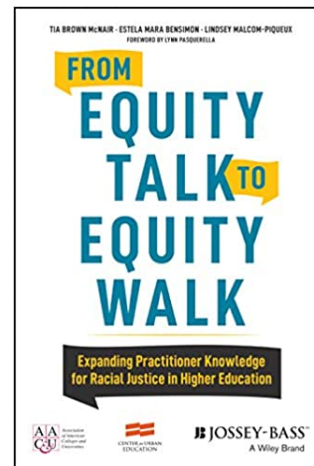
In partnership with:



Here are a few of the speakers you can expect to have a conversation with:

**December 2, 2020, 2 PM - 4 PM (PST)**

**Tia McNair**— Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Student Success and Executive Director for the TRHT Campus Centers, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Student Success, AAC&U and co-author of [“From Equity Talk to Equity Walk”](#)

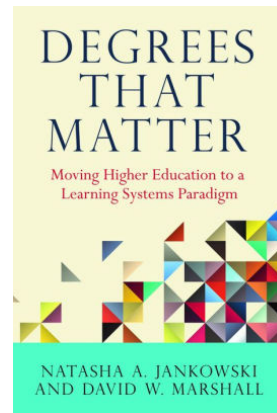


**David French**— Senior editor at *The Dispatch* and a columnist for *Time*. He is a former major in the United States Army Reserve and recently published [“Divided We Fall: America's Secession Threat and How to Restore Our Nation”](#)



**December 3, 2020, 2 PM - 4 PM (PST)**

**[Natasha Jankowski](#)**—Executive Director of the National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment and co-author of [“Degrees that Matter”](#) that I talked about in my previous letter

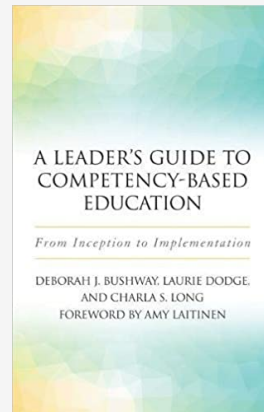


**[Cecilia Rios-Aguilar](#)**—Associate Dean of Equity & Inclusion at UCLA and a faculty director at the [Policy Analysis for California Education](#)



**December 7, 2020, 2 PM - 4 PM (PST)**

**Deb Bushway**—President and CEO of Northwestern Health Sciences University, and author of [“A Leader's Guide to Competency-Based Education”](#)

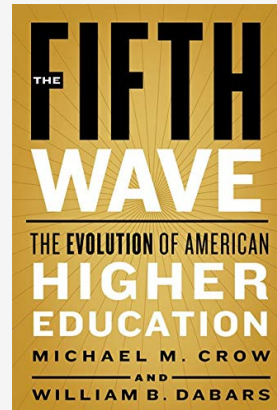


**Wayne Skipper**—CEO of [Concentric Sky](#) who have worked with us to build the [Program Mapper](#) and creator of the [Badgr](#) micro-credentiaing tool.



**December 8, 2020, 2 PM - 4 PM (PST)**

**Michael Crow**—President of Arizona State University and co-author of [“The Fifth Wave: The Evolution of American Higher Education”](#)



**Sam Clark** and **Connie Jiang**—students at [Deep Springs College](#) where the social construction of learning happens at a whole new level



This eight-hour seminar series is an ACCJC event brought to you in collaboration with:

[California Community College Chancellor's Office](#) – thank you [Chancellor Eloy Oakley](#) and [Deputy Chancellor Daisy Gonzales](#)



[University of Hawaii system](#) - thank you [Vice President for Community Colleges Erika Lacro](#)



Pacific Postsecondary Education Council (PPEC) – thank you [Mary Okada](#)



[Academic Senate for California Community Colleges](#) – thank you to ASCCC President, [Dolores Davison](#).



The 8-hour seminar series is only 13 days from now. Go ahead and order the books and read them prior to the event if you can. The format of the seminar series is to create 40-minute conversation with each of the speakers – no PowerPoint – each brief segment a window into the significance of the topic that allows you to pick those topics that you would like to engage in more deeply.

We hope to present a survey of the landscape of the future of learning to provoke your thinking of how you want to shape your courses, the pedagogies you use in your classroom, how you can shape your department, your college, your district, your system. Come into this seminar series with a mindset of what you can take away from it.

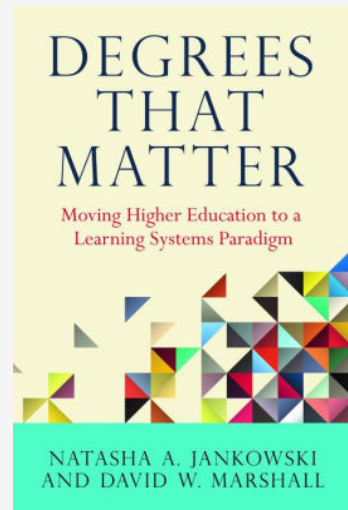
Jump in and occupy this space! Let's collectively [#OccupyLearning](#).

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In my [previous letter](#), I explored the idea of the **social construction of learning**. Using Jankowski's "Degrees that Matter" as a guide, I concentrated on the "clarifying learning" aspect of socially constructing the learning where faculty dialogue across disciplines and with our students about what students need to learn in higher education and in our particular programs. **Clarifying the learning** is as much for ourselves as for the students because we need to be very intentional about our role in society: how we prepare the future workforce of engaged citizens who are fulfilled human beings, as well as how we want to transform society through what our students learn in college.

Besides the internal conversations we have about learning within our colleges, these conversations happen among colleges when we gather for events such as the SLO Friday Talk that [Jarek Janio](#) organizes. The [SLO Friday Talk in July](#) explored competency-based education in California and how it advances our equity goals so more students can **#OccupyLearning**. At the [SLO Friday Talk in November](#), we were in conversation with Karen McClendon about outcomes-based grading and assessment. In December we will gather for the ["Future of Learning"](#) webinars (do you have Dec 2+3 and 7+8 reserved on your calendar?).





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**Before COVID-19 hit**, we had the luxury of smoothly evolving how we educated our students for a changing future while keeping many of our systems still in place. We could calmly plan for gradual changes in education because the future of learning was just that—the future. The massive COVID-19 shutdowns forced us all to make some radical changes in how we educate our students.

The very public and tragic death of George Floyd coupled with the disproportionate effects of the pandemic on communities of color, has forced us to face and more deeply examine racial equity issues. The economic downturn has had a detrimental impact particularly on our most vulnerable populations. How will we ensure that historically marginalized students have the resources and support they need to succeed?

Finally, the extreme polarization in our country has made us rethink the role of higher education in shaping our society to be able to engage in disagreements in ways that build bridges instead of walls. Do we need to heighten our emphasis on the responsibilities of civic literacy and engagement for a healthy democracy?

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Because we've proven to ourselves that we can change, that we can adapt, I believe we're ready to **explore a future of learning**. I envision the learning happening in different spaces – not just in the classroom - and through lived experience- is both acknowledged and honored. This is the future of education and another step toward equity in learning.

I'm looking forward to the conversations we'll have about the now-present future of learning and enhanced focus on equity.

And ... have you put "The Future of Learning" on December 2, 3, 7, 8 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on your calendar yet?

Remember, you can [register at this link for free](#).

With much warmth and collegiality,

sonya

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