

CALIFORNIA PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT COLLABORATIVE

December 2019 Newsletter

Upcoming CPAC Engagement Opportunities

Regional Happy Hours!

This January, the California Performance Assessment Collaborative (CPAC) is organizing two or three regional happy hours, one in Northern California and one or more in Southern California. We hope that these happy hours can serve as a catalyst for great conversations, sharing of best practices, and a little fun as well! We will share more information in an e-blast as we get closer to the date, but for now, please mark your calendars:

- Northern California Happy Hour, hosted by Julie Kessler (Supervisor of Innovation & Design, San Francisco Unified) and Young Whan Choi (Manager of Performance Assessments, Oakland Unified): Thursday, January 16, 4:30-6:00 at Arthur Mac's in Oakland near the MacArthur BART.
- Southern California Happy Hour dates TBD, so stay tuned for opportunities to raise a glass to performance assessment and all the good work you do to make it happen!

Assessment for Learning Conference

February 11-13, 2020 | San Diego, CA

Assessment for EQUITY. Assessment for AGENCY. Assessment for LEARNING. Join the conversation about how to fundamentally #RethinkAssessment! CPAC will have a strong presence and built-in networking opportunities at this year's annual conference of the [Assessment for Learning Project](#). We hope you will join us. The conference will provide hands-on workshops, practical tools and guidance, peer learning

opportunities, and access to a dynamic community of educators dedicated to assessment for learning. Learn more and register today at

www.assessmentforlearningconference.org.

Virtual Kickoff Update

We kicked off the 2019-2020 CPAC Community of Practice (FYI, we are now using this term in place of "Professional Learning Community" to more accurately describe our work together) with a virtual event on October 24 that drew nearly 30 participants. After providing an overview of CPAC and our plans for this year, we heard from Sarah Lench (Chief Curiosity Officer & Learning Networks Director, Center for Innovation in Education) about the upcoming Assessment for Learning Project conference this February (see left for more information). We then explored four compelling advances in performance assessments from colleagues across the state. We are so grateful to our presenters who inspired us with successful strategies in their school- or system-level performance assessment work, facilitators for each of the sessions, and participants for contributing to a meaningful exchange. Presenters included:

- Hillary Walker, a teacher at Life Academy in Oakland, who talked about creating opportunities for students to defend their graduate capstone projects in panels grouped by topic.
- Jeff Gilbert (Lead Principal) and Michael Silva (Teacher/House Lead) of Hillsdale High School in San Mateo, who discussed the ways in which they support seniors as they prepare their capstone projects. These include providing an advisor and a content coach and providing options for students' projects.

- Kristina Turley-Payne (College and Career Pathways Coordinator) and Sofia Valadez-Paez (College and Career Pathways Coach) of Pasadena Unified, who shared how school site coordinators played a key role in the successful implementation of the district's new senior defense graduation requirement for the Class of 2019.
- Nancy Le, Linked Learning Instructional Coach at Los Angeles Unified, who shared how she and her colleagues are addressing and defining rigor in portfolio projects through the use and application of a modified version of SCALE's quality criteria tool, professional development, and supportive systems.

Our attendees provided positive feedback (93% enjoyed their kickoff experience), along with helpful suggestions for improvement. We look forward to convening more CPAC members virtually in the future!

Welcome to the CPAC team, Monica Martinez and Jeannette LaFors!

Monica Martinez

Monica has joined the LPI team as Director of Strategic Initiatives and will be overseeing multiple projects related to performance assessment, including CPAC.

Monica has been working in the fields of college access and school transformation for most of her career. She started her career working for admissions at a public university in Texas and ended her time in higher education as an Assistant Dean of the College at Williams College, where she could see issues of college access and success firsthand. Since then, Monica has worked for foundations and intermediaries on whole-school transformation and specifically high school redesign. Her most recent role was at XQ Institute, part of the Emerson Collective, where she was the Chief School Support Officer responsible for overseeing 19 teams that were starting new schools based on the XQ Super School Competition Project. Prior to joining XQ, Monica was a Senior Fellow for the Hewlett Foundation on Deeper Learning and authored *Deeper Learning: How Eight Innovative Public Schools Are Transforming Education in the Twenty-First Century*. She has also served as the President of the New Tech Network, a Vice President for Education Strategy at KnowledgeWorks, and a senior associate at the Institute for Educational Leadership. Monica is a commissioner for the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing and serves on the Board of Trustees for Learning Forward, a national professional association for educators leading professional development.

Jeannette LaFors

Jeannette has joined the LPI team as a Consultant leading the CPAC Community of Practice.

Jeannette began her career as a high school social studies teacher, helped to lead an Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program that became a demonstration site, and received many "Teacher of the Year" awards. She earned her Ph.D. in Education at Stanford University, where she focused on teaching and educational leadership, and returned to practice as the Vice President of Instruction for Envision Schools, where she led curriculum and instruction, school accountability, and professional development initiatives—all centered in a project-based learning instructional model. As Senior Director of Professional Services at Teachscape, Inc., Jeannette designed and supervised professional development at all levels, and as Director of Equity Initiatives at The Education Trust-West she supported schools and districts with expanding student access and success to college and career pathways. She is now a consultant with the Learning Policy Institute and other organizations in the United States, Chile, and Peru, focused on positively transforming teaching and learning for traditionally underserved students.

Steering Committee Update

We convened the CPAC steering committee on November 14, during which we shared reflections on the virtual kick-off from October 24 and discussed ways to design future engagements to efficiently convene CPAC participants for generative collaboration. We also discussed the upcoming happy hours and CPAC engagement at the Assessment for Learning Conference (see above).

Our steering committee includes members from the following schools, districts, and organizations: ConnectEd: The National Center for College and Career, Envision Learning Partners, Fresno Unified School District, Hillsdale High School, June Jordan School for Equity, the Linked Learning Alliance, Los Angeles Unified School District, Oakland Unified School District, Oceana High School, Pasadena Unified School District, and San Francisco Unified School District.

New Episode of “The Young and the Woke”

A special [episode](#) of the podcast “The Young and the Woke” is live! This podcast is created and produced by Young Whan Choi, Manager of Performance Assessments in Oakland Unified School District (OUSD), and features the voices and experiences of OUSD students.

The recent episode discusses OUSD students’ climate protest on September 20. More than 1,000 district youth participated in the largest worldwide climate protest ever held. Students mobilized in response to the international consensus that we have to cut our carbon emissions in half within the next 11 years to prevent irreversible damage to the planet. This episode features Skyline High School students, including protest organizer Angelica Perkins who works with [Youth vs. Apocalypse](#), a diverse group of young climate justice activists working together to lift the voices of youth, in particular, youth of color, and fight for a livable climate and an equitable, sustainable, and just world.

Recommended Reading

Standardized Testing and College Admissions

Admissions and other staff at institutes for higher education in California are publicly debating the role of standardized testing in college admissions, especially in light of a lawsuit challenging the University of California’s use of the SAT or ACT as an admissions requirement. Read the following articles to learn more:

- [Lawsuit claims SAT and ACT are illegal to require for UC admissions](#), Elissa Nadworny, KQED, Dec 10, 2019.
- [University of California system could change the future of SAT, ACT testing for college admissions](#), Marco della Cava, *USAToday*, Nov 26, 2019.
- [Debate underway whether University of California should require SAT and ACT for admissions](#), Larry Gordon, EdSource, Oct 7, 2019.

Writing Not to Win But to Learn

In his most recent [blog post](#) for Next Generation Learning Challenges, Young Whan Choi of Oakland Unified explores ways that he and his colleagues have adjusted their approach to teaching writing. In doing so, they go beyond helping their students to “win an argument” in order to support a nuanced understanding of an issue, which in turn can lead to sophisticated problem-solving approaches.

Share Your Learning

The [Share Your Learning](#) campaign is a collaborative deeper learning project to encourage more teachers to provide opportunities for students to authentically share their learning (via exhibitions, student-led conferences, and presentations of learning). When students get the opportunity to connect with an audience beyond the classroom, they are encouraged to communicate, collaborate, and contribute in meaningful ways. Parents and community members are also encouraged to engage. Thousands of educators have already committed to having more than 1,750,000 students publicly share their learning, and nearly half of the educators who have signed up are new to these practices.

The website includes toolkits and curated resources for teachers interested in integrating performance assessments in their classrooms. Teachers can earn free continuing education units by participating in the organization's campaign to expand performance assessments and reflect on their practice. Sign up at www.shareyourlearning.org.

Featured Webinars

Scaling Up Deeper Learning Approaches in Public Schools

On December 11, our own CPAC co-founders Linda Darling-Hammond and Julie Kessler participated in an informative [webinar](#) moderated by Learning Policy Institute (LPI) Senior Researcher Laura Hernández. The webinar featured new research from LPI on how three networks—Big Picture Learning (BPL), Internationals Network for Public Schools (INPS) and New Tech Network (NTN)—have partnered with traditionally structured public school districts to create cultures, systems, and processes that spread deeper learning models in ways that advance equity and success for traditionally marginalized students. The panelists addressed challenges, approaches, and successes in scaling deeper learning in public systems, and shared insights into the “why,” “what,” and “how” to scale deeper learning for students who have typically lacked access to it. They offered details from their decades of experience supporting this work. You can find the archived webinar through the link above, as well as the

[full report](#) detailing the research findings and the rich case studies of each network: [BPL](#), [INPS](#), and [NTN](#). Spread the word!

Assessment for Learning Project (ALP) Summer Webinar Series features June Jordan School for Equity in San Francisco

During a [webinar](#) recorded on June 12, Alvin Rosales, Instructional Reform Facilitator of June Jordan School for Equity (JJSE) in the San Francisco Unified School District, presented the Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) projects in which JJSE students engage. Specifically, he shared: 1) the rationale for including YPAR, which facilitates student agency in defining and solving problems relevant to them and their community, at JJSE; 2) key elements, characteristics, and processes of the JJSE YPAR experience (e.g., use of rubrics to guide and assess student work, aspects of teacher development); and 3) specific examples of YPAR projects with high-profile impact. Feel free to explore more [examples of JJSE YPAR projects](#) here. And check out the [other five webinars](#), moderated by Sarah Lench, and featuring ALP partners throughout the country. It's terrific to hear from our colleagues in the field about ways performance assessment is fostering civic engagement!

Additional Learning Opportunity

2020 Linked Learning Institute

March 16–17, 2020 | Long Beach, CA

The Linked Learning Institute gathers education leaders and practitioners who share a commitment to high-quality college and career preparation.

In working sessions led by experienced educators and capacity builders, Institute participants will have the opportunity to explore a variety of Linked Learning-related topics, delve into current research, reflect on successes, discuss common challenges, and learn from others deeply engaged in the work. This action-oriented conference will provide meaningful opportunities for networking, learning, and taking action together. More information is available at www.linkedlearning.org/institute.



About CPAC

The California Performance Assessment Collaborative (CPAC) represents educators, policymakers, and researchers who are working to study and advance the use of authentic approaches to assessment, such as presentations, projects, and portfolios, which require students to demonstrate applied knowledge of content and use of [21st-century skills](#). To learn more about CPAC, check out the [CPAC website](#).