

## CFT Leaders Running for Office: #TheCFTSquad



Kelsey Iino

Kelsey Iino is the President of the El Camino College Federation of Teachers (ECCFT), Local 6142 and an appointed member of the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) Board of Trustees. Kelsey attended community college before getting her degree from UCLA. While studying at UCLA, Kelsey did some high school outreach to get students excited about attending college but she soon realized that she wanted to be a counselor at a community college because that's when she became passionate about furthering her education. After graduating with a master's degree, Kelsey began to work as an adjunct counselor at 2 to 3 different institutions

at the same time, while also bartending and holding other jobs in order to pay the bills. Then in 2009, as Kelsey enrolled in graduate school, she got a full-time job in the counseling department at El Camino. She was dedicated to working and going to school at the same time and earned her doctorate degree while going through the tenure process. Kelsey decided to run for office when she found out that Betsy Devos became secretary of education, "Betsy made me do it! I was so mad that someone with such little knowledge and respect for public education

could hold such an important position that I knew I had to do something." So, for the next few years Kelsey worked with leaders at LACCD and in her community to build momentum to run for one of the 7 seats on the LACCD board. Then, in 2021 a seat became vacant and Kelsey was ready to take it with the support of the progressive community she built. Now she's running to keep her seat. Kelsey's message to CFT members is "Consider running for school board. We need us in these spaces to ensure that our voices are heard." Check out her website to learn more and support

<https://kelseyiino.com/>.

Jennifer Shanoski is the parent of two kids in the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) and serves as both president of the Peralta Federation of Teachers (PFT), Local 1603 and CFT vice President. Jennifer worked at a couple of local community colleges teaching chemistry while earning her Ph.D. at U.C. Berkeley and decided to make that her career. Jennifer has worked at Merritt College as a full-time faculty member in the chemistry department since 2007 and was first elected as PFT president in 2017. Jennifer is running for BUSD board because "public education has been a safe haven for her and her kids." When she heard that two BUSD school board directors

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Jennifer Shanoski

# Organizing Takes Center Stage at CFT State Council



Erin Conley

The new organizing panel at CFT's State Council on October 8 included presentations from Alan Lawrence and Rocío Carlos from ArtCenter Faculty Federation Local 5648, Kirsten Hansen from The Claremont Colleges Services Library Staff Federation Local 6735, Louis Knecht from Dominican University of California Faculty Federation of Teachers Local 6604 and Wendy Lucko, full-time professor, and Catherine Cheng, part-time professor, from Pasadena City College.

The panelists shared their stories of organizing, their ongoing struggles and victories and the ultimate goals of their campaigns. They were inspirational to fellow CFT members in attendance who showed their solidarity with our newest and aspiring members by taking selfies of support.

The panel underscored CFT's ongoing commitment to organize in the public and private sectors to ensure all education workers have good working conditions, and all students have quality learning environments.

—By CFT Organizing Director Sandra Weese

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were stepping down she decided that it was her time to give back to the institution that's given her so much. As a single mother, teacher and labor leader, Jennifer knows that she will bring a unique perspective to the board. If elected to the school board Jennifer wants to close the equity gaps, institutionalize and expand the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics), address teacher and staff recruitment and retention and bring community organizing to elected office. Her message to CFT members this year is: "There's a lot at stake in this election and it's up to each one of us to be the change we want

to see. You can be that change by running for office, knocking on doors, making phone calls, donating to campaigns, getting more involved in your own local, organizing your community and voting. Together we can make a real difference in public education for our teachers, staff, students and community. I look forward to standing beside you in those efforts." Check out her website to learn more and support [www.shanoski4berkeley.nationbuilder.com](http://www.shanoski4berkeley.nationbuilder.com).

Susan Solomon is the former president of United Educators of San Francisco (UESF), Local 61, a CFT vice president and retired teacher. In college, she enrolled in a

pre-med program focused on genetics. During the last quarter of her senior year at UC Berkeley, she took an education class, which consisted of helping out in a third-grade class, and that's when she realized she wanted to be a teacher, not a doctor. Susan then took a child development class at City College of San Francisco (CCSF), and spent



Susan Solomon

a few years working as a teacher's aide and substitute teacher in various early education settings. She then received her master's degree in early childhood education, and spent years teaching pre-k

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## Student Debt Clinics Bring Critical Relief to Members

CFT Locals across the state have been busy hosting student debt clinics in an effort to bring more members debt relief through the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program. Greater Santa Cruz Federation of Teachers, Local 2030 brought members across Santa Cruz County together for a clinic at Soquel High School on September 22. Together, these members began their PSLF applications to lessen the burden of student debt using Summer, a digital platform that is free to CFT members and assists borrowers in navigating debt relief programs.

The limited-time PSLF expansion waiver, which allows qualified borrowers to retroactively count payments towards forgiveness, expires October 31, 2022. In order to meet this deadline, borrowers should use the PSLF Help Tool at [studentaid.gov/pslf](http://studentaid.gov/pslf) and begin their application before 11:59 pm on October 31. For more information on student debt relief programs and clinics, go to [www.cft.org/erase-your-student-debt](http://www.cft.org/erase-your-student-debt).

—By CFT Senior Project Organizer Jessica Conte



Sarah Henne

Members from Local 2030 take notes as CFT Organizer Annika Mellies explains how income-driven repayment plans work in tandem with PSLF.

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and kindergarten until 2006, when her school site closed. Since she was active in her union, serving as union building representative and UESF secretary, she transitioned to full-time release to be a staff representative of UESF, and followed by serving as executive vice president and president. After being asked by several people she admires and trusts, Susan decided to run for CCSF board this year. She's excited to run with other like-minded candidates because "My union experience has taught me that, whenever it is possible, it is better to work with others than to work alone." CCSF is one of the most important, necessary public institutions we have in San

Francisco. It has provided education opportunities and support for generations of students. For a decade now, CCSF has faced enormous challenges – starting with the manufactured accreditation crisis and the resulting downsizing. The final blow was the layoffs of classified staff and faculty this past spring, resulting in a diminished class schedule and a loss of good union jobs. Many sections in the English department were eliminated, which has a negative impact on matriculating students and on immigrant students who rely on CCSF for ESL classes. Susan wants to make an impact by addressing budget concerns, particularly through the lens of

what CCSF students and potential students need. She also wants to increase outreach about free city college, especially to BIPOC and immigrant communities. Her message to CFT members this year is simple: "Vote! and get involved in getting out the vote! Every election matters, and every vote counts. We are facing incredible challenges yet again, and with those come incredible

opportunities."

Regina Chagolla is the vice president of the Berkeley Federation of Teachers (BFT), Local 1078 and currently

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Regina Chagolla

# CFT Members Lend Critical Organizing to Affiliation Effort

Member Organizers from Adjunct Faculty United, Local 6106 and State Center Federation of Teachers, Local 1533 have been lending critical organizing support to Pasadena City College (PCC) faculty through class visits and phone banking. This support has been essential to the current campaign at PCC, where instructional and non-instructional faculty

are moving to decertify their existing independent association in order to win a more democratic, powerful union affiliated with CFT. Key to these members' outreach is their ability to speak to the power of organizing with CFT, whether it be winning health care for part-timers or running robust membership growth campaigns to build power at the bargaining table.

These member organizers will continue to support PCC faculty in getting out the vote for CFT until the Public Employee Relations Board ballot count at the end of October.

—By CFT Senior Project Organizer Jessica Conte

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serves as an appointed trustee on the Emery Unified School Board. She was born in Los Angeles and raised in a large Mexican-American family by a single parent. Regina grew up as the youngest of seven and was a first-generation college graduate. At the age of 13, she had her first job with the Los Angeles Conservation Corp, a youth development program that offered work training and extended learning services. This non-traditional education setting combined with encouraging public school teachers created a supportive educational environment. These experiences inspired her to be the educator that she is today. Regina was awarded the Posse Foundation Leadership Scholarship to attend the University of Wisconsin, Madison School

of Education and moved to the Bay Area to attend the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Education as a Ronald E. McNair Scholar. She has lived in Emeryville since 2014 and works as an elementary public school teacher at Berkeley Unified School District. Regina was appointed to her current trustee position in December 2020, during the pandemic lockdown. "My neighbors encouraged me to apply for the open seat. I also applied because I believed an educator's perspective in 2020 had even greater significance in light of the challenges that schools faced during the covid-19 crisis. I am running for school board in the November 8, 2022 election because I want to continue providing students with the right support systems and be part of solutions at a local,

county and state level." Regina wants to create equitable access for all students, and a positive school climate through mental health services. "As an elementary public school teacher before and during the pandemic, I know the challenges students face when social and emotional needs are not met. I recognize that mental health is an essential part of overall health. To support our students, I am committed to expanding social and emotional learning programs in our schools." She also wants to support teachers and staff because California public schools are facing a growing staff shortage. Regina's message to all CFT members this year is, "Organize! Organize! Organize!"

—By CFT Organizer Valarie Bachelor



California affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, representing education workers in public and private schools and colleges, from early childhood through higher education. The CFT is committed to raising the standards of the profession and to securing the conditions essential to provide the best service to California's students.

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*Get Organized!* is produced by union workers in the CFT Field Representatives Union and the Office and Professional Employees International Union.

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