# California Stories of Hope: Advancing Social Justice through Student Success

**February 3, 2022 | 9.30 am - 12.00 pm PT**

**Welcome and Land Acknowledgment**

**Brandon Smith** | Assistant Vice President, Gardner Institute  
**John Gardner** | Founder and Executive Chair, Gardner Institute  
**John Whiteley** | Professor of Social Ecology, University of California, Irvine

**Opening Remarks**

**Michael Dennin** | Professor of Physics & Astronomy, Dean of Division of Undergraduate Education, Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning, University of California, Irvine

**Discussion with Richard Arum**

**Richard Arum** | Professor of Sociology and Education, School of Education, University of California, Irvine  
*A large group of interdisciplinary researchers have come together at UCI with support from the Mellon Foundation to develop a state-of-the-art measurement system focused on supporting institutional improvement, advancing educational equity, and demonstrating the value of undergraduate education. The project team developed a framework for measuring student development and has integrated unprecedented data from students’ administrative records, clickstream data from the campus’ learning management system, weekly surveys, experiential sampling logs, and innovative performance assessments.*

**Discussion with Jamey Rorison**

**Jamey Rorison** | Senior Program Officer at Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation  
*Americans believe strongly in the value of college, and they are asking “What is college worth?” To help answer that question, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation supported the launch of the Postsecondary Value Commission, a group of thirty leaders representing post-secondary institutions, federal and state policy offices, the civil rights, workforce, and research communities, advocates, and undergraduate students. What does it mean for our shared efforts to help more of today’s students start and complete the path to an education that puts them on the path to a better living and a better life?*

**Q&A with John Gardner, Richard Arum, and Jamey Rorison**

**Break**

**Panel Discussion**

**Jillian Kinzie** | NSSE Institute & NILOA Senior Scholar, Indiana University School of Education  
**Shari G. McMahan** | Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, California State University, San Bernardino  
**Thomas Parham** | President, California State University, Dominguez Hills  
**Henry Shannon** | Superintendent/President, Chaffey College

**Closing Remarks**
Welcome & Event Hosts

**John Gardner** | John is an educator, university professor and administrator, founder of two non-profit organizations, author, public speaker, consultant, public intellectual and thought leader, change agent, student retention specialist, first-year, sophomore, transfer, and senior year students’ advocate, initiator and scholar of multiple undergraduate education reform movements and...a continuing active participant in the unfinished civil rights movement. He serves as Founder and Executive Chair of the John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education. The Institute was founded by John and his wife, Betsy O. Barefoot, in October 1999 as the Policy Center on the First Year of College which was an outgrowth of their previous pioneering work at the University of South Carolina.

**John Whiteley** | John M. Whiteley has been an administrator and professor at the University of California, Irvine since 1972. His research includes the clash between citizen expression of concern which conflicts sharply with the national security imperatives of the U.S. government, moral development from late adolescence to early adult development, social ecology of peace, character and community in the college years, history of the profession of counseling psychology, quest for peace, and security in the 21st century. He has published two volumes--with a third in process--on moral and intellectual maturation during the college years.

**Michael Dennin** | Professor Dennin has been Professor of Physics and Astronomy at UCI since 1997, and is now the Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning and Dean, Division of Undergraduate Education. His research focuses on the dynamics of foams and modeling of ice mélange in fjords. He is passionate about public outreach in the area of science – appearing on numerous television programs. You can find Prof. Dennin in the YouTube series Fascinating Fights debating the outcome of battles between pop icons. Recently, he published a science outreach book on the intersection between science and faith: Divine Science: Finding Reason at the Heart of Faith, from Franciscan Media.

Presenters

**Richard Arum** | Richard Arum is professor of education and (by courtesy) sociology, criminology, law and society at the University of California, Irvine. He recently served as dean of the UCI School of Education, senior fellow at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and director of the Education Research Program at the Social Science Research Council where he oversaw the development of the Research Alliance for New York City Schools, a research consortium designed to conduct ongoing evaluation of the New York City public schools. He is both an author of various publications as well as a coeditor. Arum received a Masters of Education in Teaching and Curriculum from Harvard University, and a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California, Berkeley.

**Jamey Rorison** | Jamey Rorison, Ph.D. is a senior program officer on the U.S. Program Data team at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation where he leads efforts to advance a field-led movement to increase equitable postsecondary value. Prior to joining the foundation, Rorison served as director of research and policy at the Institute for Higher Education Policy and led research examining issues of college affordability and equitable college access and completion. He is a contributing author and has been published in the Journal for Research on Educational Effectiveness and the Enrollment Management Journal: Student Access, Finance, and Success in Higher Education. Rorison serves on the editorial board of Higher Education Politics & Economics and earned his Ph.D. in higher education from the University of Pennsylvania.
Panelists

Jillian Kinzie | Jillian Kinzie, Ph.D. is Associate Director, Center for Postsecondary Research and the National Survey of Student Engagement Institute, Indiana University School of Education. She conducts research and leads activities on the effective use of student engagement data and serves as senior scholar with the National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment project. She is a co-author and co-editor of various publications, is a peer reviewer, and regularly consults with colleges and universities about assessment, effective educational practice, inclusive excellence, high-impact practices, and support for student success. She is excited about a co-edited book nearing completion – *Delivering on the Promise of HIPs: Research and Models for Achieving Equity, Fidelity, Impact and Scale*. Kinzie earned her PhD from Indiana University in higher education with a minor in women’s studies.

Shari G. McMahan | Dr. Shari McMahan joined California State University, San Bernardino in 2016. She is the first woman in CSUSB history to lead the Division of Academic Affairs. With more than 1,000 faculty and staff and an annual budget that exceeds $90M, she manages the largest unit on campus. Previously, she served 16 years at Cal State Fullerton where she held a myriad of leadership roles, including Interim Associate Vice President for Research, Creative Activities and Technology Transfer, Dean of the College of Health and Human Development, and Deputy Provost. She has been awarded more than $5M in external funding, authored more than 50 peer-reviewed publications, and served on numerous professional task forces.

Thomas Parham | Dr. Parham is the 11th president of California State University, Dominguez Hills, a highly diverse, metropolitan university primarily serving the South Central and South Bay areas of Los Angeles County. Dr. Parham previously served as vice chancellor of student affairs and an adjunct faculty member at the University of California, Irvine, where he had been since 1985. Dr. Parham has focused his research efforts in the area of psychological nigrescence and has authored or co-authored six books and 45-50 journal articles and book chapters centered on African psychology.

Henry Shannon | Dr. Henry D. Shannon’s career as a chief executive officer spans 20 years in the states of Missouri and California. He currently serves as the superintendent/president of Chaffey College, a three-campus college in Southern California, which enrolls approximately 23,000 students per semester. During his tenure there, Dr. Shannon transformed the college’s vision to serve today’s community college students, preparing them for academic and occupational success. His focus on retention and graduation yielded the nine largest graduating classes in college history. Previously, Dr. Shannon served as the chancellor of St. Louis Community College. In his 24 years at St. Louis Community College, he was a college president, chief student affairs officer, administrator and teacher. Dr. Shannon is married with four children and ten grandchildren.

New insights on student academic experiences, adaptations to the pandemic, and institutional challenges confronted by students from diverse backgrounds.