

# THE PEOPLE'S PITZER

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

TPP Newsletter 11/15-11/19/2021

### Weekly Spotlight



Pitzer alumna and trustee Michele Siqueiros '95 played a key role in passing a \$47 billion higher education package that Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law on October 6, 2021.

Siqueiros is the president of the Campaign for College Opportunity, a nonprofit policy advocacy and research organization committed to increasing college access and success. The Campaign for College

Opportunity co-sponsored the bills signed in October which were inspired by discussion with community college students facing obstacles to transferring.

The bills, AB 928 and AB 1111, open a pathway to transfer to University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) schools by establishing a committee dedicated to simplifying the transfer process and mandating community colleges to adopt a uniform course numbering system. The bills hope to improve the transfer rate from community colleges, according to Siqueiros, who says, "This historic legislation tackles transfer inequities head-on by increasing collaboration between our state public colleges and universities and eliminating unnecessary hurdles that have kept students from reaching their transfer goals." The policy reminds us that working directly with community members is the best way to put forth equitable policy. In Siqueiros' own words, "As a first-gen college graduate who knows firsthand the life-changing power of

a college education, especially for low-income, Black, and Latinx students, I am especially happy for the millions of community college students who will have a smoother path to transfer and reach their own college dreams.”

## Volunteers Needed

TODAY! Support the efforts of CEC community partners the [Latino/Latina Roundtable of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys](#), the [Labor Council for Latin American Advancement \(LCLAA\)](#), and the [NAACP Pomona Valley Branch](#) to get the San Dimas city council to support a just map as it is moving from at-large to district elections.

Historically, the city of San Dimas has not had any people of color representation on the city council although the demographics of the city have changed. Now through the efforts of the Latino/Latina Roundtable, and with the help of the [Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund](#) and [SVREP](#), the city council is bypassing the possibility of having to go to court by agreeing to district elections in 2022 and 2024. This is already a victory and will help in being able to run and elect a Latino or Latina or person of color. The city council has held a number of hearings, including a recent one where it went through 38 maps and narrowed their support down to three. Although their proposed map was not included, the districts that are being proposed do include districts with a good percentage of people of color and particularly Latino and Asian Pacific.

**Show your support Monday, November 15 at 7 PM at San Dimas city hall (245 E. Bonita Ave.) where the city council will make its final decision on what map it will use for the redistricting.**

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Conduct policy research with Pitzer Alumni Joana Chai-Chang Azterbaum (PZ'19) working with the Los Angeles Team of California Women's Foundation on exploring Trans-led Community Land Trusts. Email [joana.chaichangaz@gmail.com](mailto:joana.chaichangaz@gmail.com) for more information. The California Women's Foundation is an intersectional organization devoted to racial, gender, and economic justice. They support organizations led by frontline leaders who reflect the communities they champion. Learn more about the organization [here](#).

You can also volunteer with the [TransLatin@ Coalition](#) to support their prison letter program. The TransLatin@ Coalition is an organization formed by Trans Latin@ leaders who have come together in 2009 to organize and advocate for the needs of Trans Latin@s who are immigrants and reside in the US.

## November Events

**THE PEOPLE'S PITZER**  
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Join us to learn about how to get a job working in local government/ politics out of college.

**WHEN:** Thurs. November 18th | 5:30-6:45 PM  
**WHERE:** Zoom

**Dana Nothnagel** PZ'19  
Program Coordinator for the California Grants Portal

Dana completed a Capital Fellows Executive Fellowship with the California Research Bureau and has worked with the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research. She now serves as the Program Coordinator for the California Grants Portal, a new website focused on making over \$20 billion in State funding opportunities accessible to all Californians. Dana is eager to help Claremont students understand the impacts they can have on the lives of 40 million Californians through a career in California's capital.

Sign up:



For more information, email CEO\_staff@pitzer.edu

### Thursday, November 18 @ 5:30pm-6:45pm: Preparing for Civil Service in California: Workshop with Dana Nothnagel

Register to attend [Virtual Event](#)

Dana was born and raised in Illinois and graduated from Pitzer College in 2019 with a degree in Political Studies. After graduation she accepted a fellowship with the Capital Fellows Executive Fellowship program in Sacramento, CA. She was placed at the California Research Bureau, an advisory agency that provides non-partisan, confidential research to the Governor's Office and Legislature. After completing her fellowship, she moved to the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research where she conducted research on the economic impact of national security investment in California communities. Dana now serves as the Program Coordinator for the California Grants Portal, a new website focused on making over \$20 billion in State funding opportunities accessible to all Californians. Dana is eager to help Claremont students understand the impacts they can have on the lives of 40 million Californians through a career in California's capital.

### Debating for Democracy Letter Writing Workshop Tuesday, November 30th | 1:30pm

Join Professor Van Sickle-Ward's U.S. Democracy in Comparative Perspective class for a Debating for Democracy Letter Writing Workshop.

Every year, Pitzer works with Project Pericles to promote civic engagement within higher education through a letter-writing project: [Debating for Democracy \(D4D\)](#). D4D is an annual competition where students research, develop, and advocate their opinions and positions on current public policy issues. Pitzer students will produce a co-written (two Pitzer/non-senior students minimum), two page letter to a federal or state elected official advocating for a legislative response to a current issue. The primary goal of D4D is to inspire and encourage all participants to become successful and resourceful advocates in their community. Out of the thirty Periclean institutions, five winning teams will be selected to receive \$500 towards mobilizing on their issue back at their home college the following year. Attend this workshop to learn more about writing a winning letter!

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Did you miss our **Trans Rights, Policy, and Advocacy Panel** on November 9th? Watch the recording [here](#). The panel featured PZ alum Joanna Atzerbaum-Chang, organizer & policy fellow at CA Women's Foundation and former policy associate at Trans Latin@ Coalition, Keck science professor and chair of the Trans Awareness Planning and Support Committee (TAPAS) at Pitzer College Nancy Williams, and current Pitzer student Sergio Quechol, Mellon Mays 2021 Undergraduate Fellow, who talked about their research and the experiences of El Salvadorian Trans women. Our discussion covered trans policy and rights at the institutional level, at the state level in California, and internationally.

## Save the Date

TPP events will conclude for the semester at the end of November. Thank you so much to all those who attended. Please let us know if you have ideas for future events or would like to get involved with TPP over winter break by contacting TPP student coordinator [aneuburg@students.pitzer.edu](mailto:aneuburg@students.pitzer.edu) or CEC Managing Director [tricia\\_morgan@pitzer.edu](mailto:tricia_morgan@pitzer.edu). Check our [website](#) for additional information and updates.

## Connect with Us

Want to hear more from The People's Pitzer? Join our email list [here](#). Want to get involved in the Community Engagement Center in other ways? Fill out our volunteer interest form [here](#).

Follow our [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) (@ThePeoplesPitzer) for updates, and be sure to check out our [website](#) to see all our resources. Keep an eye out for future newsletters as well!

Further questions? Comments? Concerns? For more information about The People's Pitzer, as well as how to get involved in our team, contact Alaina Neuburger at [aneuburg@students.pitzer.edu](mailto:aneuburg@students.pitzer.edu).