Inaugural Claremont Colleges Student Affairs Conference
February 24, 2017
Pitzer College, Claremont, California
Inaugural Claremont Colleges Student Affairs Conference
Friday, February 24th

Conference Overview

9:30am
Early Registration/Check-in
Pre-conference attendees
Broad Center, Broad Performance Space

10:00am
Optional Session: Navigating the 7Cs as a Student Affairs Professional
For professionals who are new to the Consortium and those looking to network with new colleagues
Broad Center, Broad Performance Space

11:00am
Registration/Check-In
Registration will close at 12:00pm
Gold Student Center, Lobby

11:30am
Catered Lunch & Welcome
Brian Carlisle, Pitzer College
Gold Student Center, Multipurpose Room

12:00pm
Navigating the 7Cs Through Executive Leadership, Moderated VPSA Panel Q&A
Chris Bass, CGU
Sharon Basso, CMC
Denise Hayes, CUC
Jon Jacobsen, HMC
Brian Carlisle, Pitzer
Miriam Feldblum, Pomona
Charlotte Johnson, Scripps
Gold Student Center, Multipurpose Room

1:15pm
CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Preparing Future Leaders in Higher Education: Excellence Practices from Staff to Mid-Level Management Role Transitions
Erica Sherese Little, Ed.D., Scripps

Violence Risk Assessment: How Counseling and Student Affairs Can Collaborate
Fiona Vajk, Ph.D., MCAPS
Dr. Anneka Busse, MCAPS

Training Student Leaders Across Dynamics of Difference and Power (Round Table)
Christopher Waugh, Pomona
Steven B. Jubert, Jr., Ed.D., Pomona
Maria Melendrez, Pomona

Moving the Needle of Diversity and Inclusion: One Department at a Time
Martin Crawford, Pomona
Chris Weyant, Pomona

2:00pm
Coffee Break

2:15pm
CONCURRENT SESSIONS

From Wish List to Strategic Asks: Campus Culture and the Art of Securing Resources
Sumun Pendakur, HMC
Leslie Hughes, HMC

Case Management: Connecting Students to Care
Dr. Anneka Busse, MCAPS

Academic CoHORTs at Pomona College
Travis Brown, Pomona

Social Justice, Diversity and the Workplace: A Workshop for 7C and CUC Staff
Lydia Middleton, OBASA
M. Ricardo Townes, Pomona
Jessica Alampay, I-Place
Linda Lam, Pitzer
Vince Greer, CMC
Nick Daily, OBASA
Chrystal Orozco, I-Place
Nyree Gray, CMC
Dr. Zack Ritter, HMC

3:00pm
Coffee Break

3:15pm
CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Introduction to the International Student Experience: A Guide for Student Affairs
Todd Sasaki, Pitzer
Jessica Alampay, I-Place
Chrystal Orozco, I-Place

Enhancing Your Multicultural Lens in Working with Students
Amber E. Blews, MCAPS
Grant Goodman, MCAPS
Irene Kao, MCAPS

Proud to be First-Gen at Scripps and Pitzer Colleges
Linda Lam, Pitzer
Leslie Schnyder, Scripps
Daniela Canas Baena, Scripps

Supervising New Professionals in Student Affairs
Steven B. Jubert, Jr., Ed.D., Pomona

4:15pm
A Presidential Perspective on Student Affairs
Dr. Melvin L. Oliver, Pitzer

5:15pm
Closing Remarks
Kirsten Carrier, Pitzer College
Benson Auditorium

5:30pm
Post-Conference Happy Hour
Nuno’s Bistro
Thank you for your support!

The Planning Committee would like to thank all of our incredible colleagues for joining and supporting us for this Inaugural Conference. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to showcase so much knowledge and talent, as well as to build relationships across campuses that can only strengthen our community. We would especially like to thank Pitzer College for hosting the first year of this conference. Thank you also to Pitzer Dining Services and the Facilities staff for making this entire event possible. Thank you again for coming and we look forward to working with you throughout the year!

Inaugural Claremont Colleges Student Affairs Conference

Planning Committee

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Erica Sherese Little, Ed.D.
Area Coordinator for Residential Life Operations, Scripps College
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Navigating the 7Cs as a Student Affairs Professional

Moderator: Erica Sherese Little, Ed.D., Scripps

Topic: Professionals who are new to the Claremont Colleges and professionals who are interested in networking with new colleagues

Are you new to the 7C consortium or just looking to learn more about the environment you have been working in? This is a fantastic time to get to learn more about the 7C environment and is open to anyone who is either a brand new professional to the consortium looking to know the ins and outs of their new surroundings; someone who may have been here for any length of time that may be still trying to navigate relationships with individuals on other campuses, or if you are just looking to still learn something new about the other campuses that surround you. This session will include a moderated panel of individuals from each of the 7 institutions providing insights about the consortium, including tips or advice for navigating the grounds successfully and there will be time throughout for you to ask them any questions you may have!

Rick Hankins, Claremont Graduate University

*Resident Director*

Rick Hankins is the Resident Director (RD) for the Claremont Collegiate Apartments, the on-campus housing for CGU students. He has served in this capacity since the facility opened in 2008, at which time he was working on his Ph.D. in Religion at CGU. In addition to serving as RD, Rick teaches in the Religion Department at California Lutheran University. His courses focus on Christian ethics, human rights and violence. Rick is a die-hard Cubs fan from Missouri. He kindly requests that you refrain from waking him if last season was a dream.

Jamie Kammerman, Claremont McKenna College

*Interim Director of Residential Life*

Jamie Kammerman is the current Interim Director of Residential Life at CMC. She has been in Residence Life for nearly 7 years and previously served as an Assistant Director of Residence Life at CSU Fullerton and a Hall Director & Student Activities Coordinator at Scripps College. She holds a M.Ed in College Student Affairs from Pennsylvania State University and a B.A. in Sociology with a concentration in Race, Class and Gender from CSUF.

Jill Langan, Scripps College

*Assistant Director of Residential Life*

Jill has worked at Scripps College for the past 6 years, serving in roles as a Hall Director and currently as the Assistant Director of Residential Life. She oversees all of the housing operations for Scripps College. Jill’s background and master’s degrees are in Educational Psychology. Jill spends her free time with her roommate Tig, a blue Queensland Heeler, and moonlights as a Birth Doula and Child Birth Educator.
Evetth Gonzalez, Harvey Mudd College  
*Assistant Dean for Campus Life*

Evetth Gonzalez is a student affairs professional specializing in student leadership and development, orientation and transition, quality programming, social justice advocacy, and assessment. She earned her bachelor’s degree in Communication studies from Biola University and Masters in College Counseling and Student Development from Azusa Pacific University, where she also served for two years in the Student Center for Reconciliation and Diversity. Most recently, she served as Student Activities Coordinator at Scripps College and oversaw clubs and organizations, the student store, campus programs, portions of the student government and conducted all departmental assessment. In her position at HMC, she oversees Orientation, the campus programming board, advises positions within the student government, and manages the Linde Activities Center – the campus’ recreation facility. She also is an inaugural member of the Claremont Colleges Teal Dot Committee that focuses on bystander intervention strategies for students, faculty, and staff. Evetth also holds a position with NASPA as the Regional Representative Liaison with the Latino/a Knowledge Community – overseeing all regional representatives within the KC. She has presented on a wide array of topics including identity, faith, advocacy, allyship, and personal development on various campuses in Southern California and at regional and national conferences across the country.

Tressi Mehana Chun, Pitzer College  
*Assistant Director of Residence Life & Summer Programs*

Tressi has been a part of the Pitzer community since 2001. Originally from Hawaii, Tressi attended the University of La Verne where she was active in the Greek life community and worked in the Office of Academic Support and Retention. During her undergraduate experience, she knew she wanted to pursue a career in higher education. After completing her BA in social science at the University of La Verne in 2001, she began her career at Pitzer College and worked in the Office of the Registrar for five years. In 2006, Tressi transitioned the Office of Student Affairs as the housing coordinator and feels that it was the best move she ever made. At that time she decided to pursue a Master’s Degree in Education and received her M.A. in Education with an Emphasis in Student Affairs from CGU. Being able to build relationships with students and parents is one of the most rewarding aspects of her job. She feels fortunate to be able to work in an environment that allows her to branch out in various areas in the Student Affairs field.

Andrew Castro, Pomona College  
*Residence Life Coordinator*

Andrew Castro is a Residence Life Coordinator at Pomona College. Andrew supervises the resident advisors for Clark-III, Clark-V, Oldenbourg, Smiley, and Walker Halls. He has been a staff member at Pomona since 2007. He is an alumnus of Claremont McKenna College, ’05 and received his M.S.HRD from Claremont Graduate University in 2008.
11:30am Catered Lunch & Welcome

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Welcome!</th>
<th>Gold Center, Multipurpose Room</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presenter: Brian A. Carlisle, Pitzer</td>
<td>Welcome to the Inaugural 7C Student Affairs Conference! We are glad you are here. Please enjoy your meal and prepare for an exciting afternoon!</td>
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12:00pm Moderated VPSA Panel and Q&A

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Navigating the 7Cs Through Executive Leadership</th>
<th>Gold Center, Multipurpose Room</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moderator: Sharon Basso, CMC</td>
<td>A panel conversation and Q&amp;A with the executive student affairs leaders of the Claremont Colleges will open the conference. This panel conversation will be moderated and will include both conversation amongst the panelists and pre-submitted questions from the audience. Consider submitting a question at the registration table when you check-in for the conference.</td>
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Chris Bass, Claremont Graduate University

Dean of Students & Campus Life

The Dean of Students and Campus Life is the primary advocate for student success, ensuring students receive the support, information, and resources to effectively meet their academic endeavors and achieve their degree goals. The Dean of Students espouses a commitment to service as the core of the mission of the organization. Defining service as both helpful assistance and a contribution to the welfare of others, the functions of the Dean of Students extends beyond administrative compliance with University policies, to encompass the human and personal concerns of students. The Dean of Students welcomes the opportunity to address student need in the areas of mental/physical health and wellness, diversity and inclusivity and safety. Whatever the challenge a student may face, the Dean of Students is always available to assist. Administrative offices reporting to the Dean of Students include Student Life and Diversity, International Student Scholars and Services, Disability Services, and Housing Services. These units encompass an array of functions including, student government, minority mentoring, student activities and programs, student visas, student accommodations, and the CGU Apartments. All of these services contribute to a comprehensive effort for advancing the goal of student success by complementing the academic experience.
Sharon Basso, Claremont McKenna College

*Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students*

The Dean of Students at CMC is responsible for the day-to-day lives of all CMC students. This includes supervision of the Dean of Students staff and its functions: Academic Counseling, Personal Advising, First-Year Student Programs, Residential Life & Housing, Student Activities, the Center for Civic Engagement, the CARE Center (Civility, Access, Resources, and Expression) and Disciplinary Matters. The Dean of Students is also CMC’s liaison to the “central services” that are provided by the Claremont University Consortium. The Dean of Students serves as an advocate for student concerns and needs. And finally, the Dean of Students serves as the primary dean for juniors, seniors, and graduate students at CMC.

Denise Hayes, Claremont University Consortium

*Vice President for Student Affairs*

Dr. Denise Hayes joined Claremont University Consortium in July 2009 and was named Vice President for Student Affairs in January 2011. In that capacity, she has responsibility for the Chaplains, Chicano Latino/Student Affairs, Black Student Affairs, Health Education Outreach, and Student Health Services. Prior to her current appointment, she served as Director of Student Health and Counseling Services for The Claremont Colleges. An Indiana native, Dr. Hayes obtained her doctoral degree in Counseling Psychology from Indiana University. Her doctoral research was on perceived support for college students who are single parents. A Counseling Psychologist, Dr. Hayes began her career in counseling and student health in 1992. She served as Director of Counseling and Health Services at DePauw University, Greencastle, IN from 1999–2009.

In addition to numerous presentations, Dr. Hayes has been a contributing author in the Journal of College Student Psychotherapy and the Journal of Counseling and Development. She has also been cited in the Wall Street Journal, Ebony magazine, the Indianapolis Star and the San Antonio Express News. Her research interests include leadership development, cultural competency student health and mental health providers, organizational consultation, and wellness.

Jon Jacobson, Harvey Mudd College

*Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students*

Professor of Mathematics

Jon Jacobson was appointed Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students in September 2016. Jacobson is responsible for residential life and student support programs and for overseeing the offices of Institutional Diversity, Career Services and Community Engagement. Hired in 2002 in the Department of Mathematics, Jacobson was promoted to full professor in 2014. As associate dean for academic affairs since 2010, he oversaw the first-year academic program and helped students make a smooth transition from high school to college.
Brian A. Carlisle, Pitzer College  
*Vice President for Student Affairs*

A nationally respected student advocate, Carlisle comes to Pitzer from the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, where he served as the dean of students since 2010. “The College and I share a passion for social justice and environmental sustainability, and I am honored to be part of an institution with a demonstrated history of commitment to providing programs and services that both challenge and support its students. Simply stated, Pitzer students are amazing. I look forward to watching students develop their talents and intellect through a supportive faculty and staff.” Carlisle said.

Carlisle was previously the associate vice president of student affairs and dean of students at the San Francisco Art Institute where he supervised student life, counseling, career resources, international student affairs, student government, disability services, judicial affairs, and residential life. Carlisle led the development of his division’s first strategic plan, expanded and further professionalized the programs and services offered through the student affairs division, and negotiated contracts for a new residence hall. Carlisle has also served as associate dean of students at the University of California, Los Angeles and in the student affairs division at Saint Louis University.

Carlisle received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa and earned a juris doctor from Southwestern University School of Law in Los Angeles. He also served as a mathematics professor in Alabama.

Miriam Feldblum, Pomona College  
*Vice President and Dean of Students*  
*Professor of Politics*

Miriam oversees student services, academic support, as well as policy governance and many compliance issues related to students at Pomona College. Her oversight includes the Dean of Students office, Campus Life, Housing and Residence Life, SCC, Career Development Office, Draper Center for Community Partnerships, the Asian American Resource Center, the QRC, Women’s Union, Outdoor Education Center, Claremont Colleges radio station, and The Claremont Colleges Ballroom Dance Company; she serves as the institutional liaison for the Posse Foundation, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship program, and the KIPP schools partnership; supervises the College’s Title IX coordinator/clergy officer, and 504 coordinator. In collaboration with the student deans from the other Claremont Colleges, they provide oversight of the student services provided through CUC. Her research and teaching areas are the politics and policies of immigration and citizenship, and immigration and higher education. Miriam has written articles and delivered papers on immigration and higher education, European Union citizenship, highly skilled labor in the United States, comparisons between the United States and Europe, and has conducted workshops on supporting college students who are unauthorized immigrants (including those granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals status) in the United States. In spring 2016, Miriam was a visiting fellow at the Migration Policy Institute in Washington, D.C., where her work focused on researching the impacts of immigration and immigration policy on public and private colleges and universities, and the role of higher education in national immigration reform.

Prior to joining Pomona, Miriam worked at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) as special assistant to the president, senior director for academic support programs, and a senior research associate and faculty associate in humanities and social sciences. Prior to Caltech, she served as an assistant professor of politics at the University of San Francisco. She received her B.A. in political science from Barnard College and her M.A., MPhil, and Ph.D. in political science from Yale University. She is a member of the steering board of the Consortium on High Achievement and Success (CHAS).
Charlotte Johnson, Scripps College  
*Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students*

Charlotte Johnson comes to Scripps from Dartmouth College, where she served as dean of the college since 2011. Prior to Dartmouth, she was vice president and dean at Colgate University; previously she was director of academic services and assistant dean for student affairs at the University of Michigan Law School. Johnson’s higher education career combines leadership, management, and strategic planning with direct involvement with students as well as fundraising and alumni relations roles. She holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Detroit, where she graduated first in her class, and she earned a law degree from the University of Michigan. Charlotte was the first African-American partner at her Detroit law firm and has, since then, helped blaze a path for other women aspiring to senior leadership positions in higher education. She was the first woman to be named dean of the college at Colgate and one of two women to hold her position at Dartmouth.

Reporting directly to the president and serving as a member of the president’s senior team, the Scripps vice president for student affairs and dean of students holds the primary responsibility for services that support student life and the educational goals of the College’s 950 undergraduate students. The vice president/dean plays a central role in upholding and promoting the values of equity, community and inclusivity that are hallmarks of Scripps College.
### Concurrent Sessions

#### Preparing Future Leaders in Higher Education: Excellence Practices from Staff to Mid-Level Management Role Transitions

**Presenter:**
Erica Sherese Little, Ed.D., Scripps

**Topic Areas:**
Leadership, Supervision

Establishing success as a new mid-level leader can be stressful without adequate support from one’s institution. The purpose of this study was to determine what higher education institutions can do to prepare staff for a successful transition into mid-level management and leadership roles successfully. As a result of the study’s key findings, a framework of eight primary aspects emerged for aspiring and current mid-level leaders transitioning into a new mid-level role. These include, but are not limited to, being a supervisor and a colleague within a mid-level position, understanding the culture of a new institution, and effectively communicating institutional politics.

#### Violence Risk Assessment: How Counseling and Student Affairs Can Collaborate

**Presenters:**
Fiona Vajk, Ph.D., MCAPS  
Dr. Anneka Busse, MCAPS

**Topic Areas:**
Wellness

In this presentation, MCAPS staff will present the latest research findings on warning signs for violence, review methods for formal Violence Risk Assessment, and discuss how counseling and student affairs staff can best work together to minimize the risks of violence on campus. A case example will be reviewed and discussed.

#### Training Student Leaders Across Dynamics of Difference and Power (Round Table)

**Presenters:**
Christopher Waugh, Pomona  
Steven B. Jubert, Jr., Ed.D., Pomona  
Maria Melendrez, Pomona

**Topic Areas:**
Student Development

As campuses across the nation support diverse communities within a complex local, national, and international context, the role of student leaders/peer mentors has never been more essential. Training these student leaders, who are at the forefront of creating welcoming and just communities, has never been more critical. This round table will provide an opportunity to share challenges and triumphs as well as learn best practices from peers as we equip student mentors to build community across difference.

#### Moving the Needle of Diversity and Inclusion: One Department at a Time

**Presenters:**
Martin Crawford, Pomona  
Chris Weyant, Pomona

**Topic Areas:**
Action, Activism

Come and engage with student affairs professionals from different departments at the 7Cs and learn about efforts being made to move the needle toward diversity and inclusion. The staff at the Outdoor Education Center will share examples of their efforts, and the lessons they’ve learned along the way!
### From Wish List to Strategic Asks: Campus Culture and the Art of Securing Resources

**Presenters:**
- Sumun Pendakur, HMC
- Leslie Hughes, HMC

**Topic Areas:**
- Developmental Student Services

Frustration at the lack of resources is an ever-present conversation in our field. Student Affairs professionals are consistently asked to “do more with less,” innovate, and serve increasingly complex student needs, often with stagnant budgets. While these pressures are real, our standard practices around resource attainment will not change the status quo. This session offers attendees hands-on resources to make skilled, strategic asks, through the use of assessment, strategic positioning, and knowledge of institutional values and needs. Participants will leave with specific tools to navigate the terrain of limited resources and competing priorities.

### Case Management: Connecting Students to Care

**Presenter:**
- Dr. Anneka Busse, MCAPS

**Topic Areas:**
- Wellness

Case managers in higher education can serve many roles, but a critical role is connecting students to care, especially in times of crisis. This program will be an overview of what case management is, a brief history, how case managers work together at the 7Cs, tools case managers use to standardize care decisions, and what student affairs professionals can do to work together with case managers to connect students to services. Additionally, Monsour Counseling and Psychological Services’ case management services will be described.

### Academic Cohorts at Pomona College

**Presenter:**
- Travis Brown, Pomona

**Topic Areas:**
- Collaboration, Partnerships

Pomona College has instituted several cohort-based faculty-led advising groups that serve to mentor first-generation/low-income students interested in STEM disciplines. Cohort students have performed on par with non-cohort peers in introductory biology courses, and retention within Division II (the sciences) is higher than their non-cohort peers. Students report high levels of satisfaction with their advising experience and their overall sense of dedication to STEM. The cohort model has been successful, and Pomona College is exploring ways to increase capacity in a sustainable manner.

### Social Justice, Diversity and the Workplace: A Workshop for 7C and CUC Staff

**Presenters:**
- Lydia Middleton, OBSA
- M. Ricardo Townes, Pomona
- Jessica Alampay, I-Place
- Linda Lam, Pitzer
- Vince Greer, CMC
- Nick Daily, OBSA
- Chrystal Orozco, I-Place
- Nyree Gray, CMC
- Zack Ritter, HMC

**Topic Areas:**
- Action, Activism

Developed as a result of articulated climate concerns and global/national issues as they impact higher education practitioners, this workshop will hone in on identity-based assumptions and their impact within a framework of diversity and education. The workshop will explore and provide tools to address assumptions as indicative of power imbalances (across race, gender, sexual orientation and identity, etc.), confront instances of discrimination not captured or articulated by Title IX and negotiating conversations around fears and concerns with regard to climate and global issues as they arise in the workplace. Finally the workshop will offer strategies to address triggers and oppressive behaviors, and provide resources for further reading and education.
### 3:00pm  Coffee Break

### 3:15pm  Concurrent Sessions

#### Introduction to the International Student Experience: A Guide for Student Affairs  
Fletcher Hall 104

**Presenters:**  
Todd Sasaki, Pitzer  
Jessica Alampay, I-Place  
Chrystal Orozco, I-Place

**Topic Areas:**  
Developmental Student Services

International students make up over 10% of the student population at The Claremont Colleges. As international students they face an additional variety of issues, compared to their U.S. counterparts. This presentation will address and expand upon these issues.

#### Enhancing Your Multicultural Lens in Working with Students  
Fletcher Hall 106

**Presenters:**  
Amber E. Blews, MCAPS  
Grant Goodman, MCAPS  
Irene Kao, MCAPS

**Topic Areas:**  
Student Development

As professionals working with students, we aim to increase our knowledge and applied practices related to individuals’ identities. However, with differences increasingly polarizing sides, it can be difficult to know how to integrate issues of diversity and multicultural competence. This session offers a setting to dialogue on how to expand our own multicultural lens, when addressing issues of diversity and culture with students. And helps strengthen a shared understanding of diversity and culture at the 7Cs that includes not only racial and ethnic diversity, but also incorporates disability status, gender identity, LGBTQIA issues, socioeconomic class, age, spirituality, and other important dimensions.

#### Proud to be First-Gen at Scripps and Pitzer College  
Fletcher Hall 110

**Presenters:**  
Linda Lam, Pitzer  
Leslie Schnyder, Scripps  
Daniela Canas Baena, Scripps

**Topic Areas:**  
Developmental Student Services

This workshop will discuss the emergence of First-Gen student services programs at the Claremont Colleges. It will highlight two programs at Scripps and Pitzer Colleges. The workshop will address the different layers of the program and how each works to provide institutional support, create community, and instill a sense of pride in the First-Gen identity.

#### Supervising New Professionals in Student Affairs  
Fletcher Hall 112

**Presenter:**  
Steven B. Jubert, Jr., Ed.D., Pomona

**Topic Areas:**  
Leadership, Supervision

This session will engage conference participants in dialogue on how various supervision styles impact new professionals in Student Affairs. Furthermore, this program will highlight research from the presenter’s dissertation findings that will offer tangible takeaways for managing professional staff.
Dr. Melvin L. Oliver is the sixth president of Pitzer College, an award-winning professor, author and a noted expert on racial and urban inequality. Before joining Pitzer College, President Oliver served as the executive dean at the University of California, Santa Barbara’s College of Letters and Science, where he was also the SAGE Sara Miller McCune Dean of Social Sciences and a professor of sociology. During his 12-year tenure as the dean of social sciences at UCSB, he promoted faculty diversity and championed increased access for underrepresented students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Prior to UCSB, Oliver was the vice president of the Asset Building and Community Development Program at the Ford Foundation. Under Oliver’s direction, the program developed pioneering grant initiatives, including a $50 million program to secure home mortgages for 35,000 low-wealth households and change the way banks evaluate applications for home mortgages.

As professor of sociology at University of California, Los Angeles, from 1978-96, he was named California Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and received the Harriet and Charles Luckman Distinguished Teaching Award. In 1989, he was the founding co-director of the UCLA Center for the Study of Urban Poverty, which is a leader in the development of undergraduate and graduate curriculum and world-class research on urban poverty and social welfare policy.

Oliver co-authored Black Wealth/White Wealth: A New Perspective on Racial Inequality with Thomas M. Shapiro, which won the Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award from the American Sociological Association, the C. Wright Mills Award from the Society for the Study of Social Problems, and the award for the outstanding book on the subject of human rights from the Gustavus Myers Center for its groundbreaking exploration of race and equality when it was first released in 1995. He is the co-editor of four books, including Prismatic Metropolis: Inequality in Los Angeles, and the author of numerous special journal issues and more than 50 scholarly publications. In acknowledgment of the quality and impact of his scholarly contributions, Oliver was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2012.

Oliver earned his BA at William Penn College and his MA and PhD from Washington University in St. Louis. Washington University awarded him the Distinguished Alumni Award, Arts and Sciences in 2002 and the Sesquicentennial Celebration Distinguished Alumni Award in 2003. William Penn honored him with the Distinguished Career Award in 2012. Oliver received a 2016 ASSET Builder Champion award from the Center for Global Policy Solutions.