



LOS ANGELES AREA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Chair  
Tamika Lang, The Boeing Company  
Co-Chairs  
Deane Leavenworth, Leavenworth Endeavors  
Debra Willoughby, Southern California  
Company  
Kim Battino Brownson, First 5 LA

**Education and Workforce Development Council**  
**Friday, April 12, 2019**  
**10 - 11:30 a.m.**

## AGENDA

- 1. Welcome**  
Tamika Lang, The Boeing Company, Council Chair
- 2. Introduction of Topic**  
David Rattray, Executive Vice President, L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce
- 3. Introduction of Speakers**  
Deane Leavenworth, Leavenworth Endeavors, Council Co-Chair
- 4. Presentation – The Honorable Holly Mitchell, 30<sup>th</sup> Senate District**
- 5. Presentation – Audrey Dow, Senior Vice President, The Campaign for College Opportunity**
- 6. Q&A – Facilitated by David Rattray**
- 7. Informational Items**
  - L.A. Chamber, *2019 Education & Workforce Development Advocacy Agenda*
  - L.A. Chamber, *ACCESS Sacramento*
  - L.A. Chamber, *Cradle to Career Agenda for California*

*Next Education & Workforce Development Council: June 14, 2019*

Join the conversation:    

@LAAreaChamber

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## LOS ANGELES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### Honorable Holly Mitchell California State Senate

A third-generation native Angeleno, Sen. Holly J. Mitchell is the proud daughter of career public servants and the protégé of community leaders who instilled in her a passion for service. She continued her family legacy of “firsts” when she was named the first African American to chair the powerful Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee in December 2016. Less than two months later, a profile in The Los Angeles Times described Mitchell as “the Legislature’s moral compass.”

She proved to be just that in 2017 and 2018 when she oversaw the adoption of consecutive state budgets of nearly \$200 billion each and won wide praise for directing funds to elementary and college students, the health-care systems and long-neglected programs to assist infants, the elderly, youth and working families.

In recognition of her work, the five-member Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors presented her with its Distinguished Legislator Award.

#### **Advocate for children**

Mitchell, the mother of a teen-age son, has devoted her professional life to creating a California where all children thrive. She has led the charge to reform the criminal and juvenile justice systems, expand access to healthcare, early care and education, foster care, secure women’s reproductive health and end the trafficking of minors. She is a passionate defender of women’s rights and the environment.

#### **Fighting for #EquityAndJustice**

In addition to fighting for a budget that better serves the more vulnerable among us, Mitchell joined up with Sen. Ricardo Lara and over two years jointly authored a successful package of 10 criminal justice reforms that place a greater emphasis on prevention, rehabilitation and maintaining family cohesion.

#### **A history of caring**

Mitchell previously headed California’s largest child and family development organization, Crystal Stairs, and worked for the Western Center for Law and Poverty. This gave her valuable insights in how to improve services to diverse communities whose needs were not being addressed by state or local governments.

With nearly 70 bills signed into law, Mitchell’s other groundbreaking successes include improving human services, expanding access to healthcare, defending the civil rights of minorities and the undocumented, and reducing the numbers of children growing up in poverty.



## LOS ANGELES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mitchell sits on the Senate Health Committee; the Joint Committee on Rules; the Public Safety Committee; the Labor and Industrial Relations Committee; and the Insurance, Banking and Financial Institutions Committee. She also chairs the Senate Select Committee on Social Determinants of Children's Well-Being and is a member of the Senate Select Committee on Mental Health. In January, 2018, she was named vice chair of the Joint Committee on Rules Subcommittee on Sexual Harassment Prevention and Response.

Mitchell has been cited for her outstanding leadership by more than 100 community and business groups, including the Courage Campaign, Sierra Club, United Cerebral Palsy Association, the Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce and the Women's Foundation of California Board. She was named the 2017 Lois DeBerry Scholar by Women in Government Leadership and this year received the first Willie L. Brown Jr. Advocacy Award from the California Black Lawyers Association. The National Conference of State Legislatures last summer elected her to its national Executive Committee. Her advocacy on behalf of the expansion of mental health services earned her Legislator-of-the-Year Award from the National Alliance on Mental Illness California, as well as the 2017 California Champion of Mental Health from Mental Health California. She also served as Faculty in Residence at Rutgers University in 1997, and has served as Legislator in Residence at Mount St. Mary's University since 2016. In March of 2019, she was appointed to the Los Angeles Coliseum Commission Board.

*First elected to the Legislature in 2010, Mitchell represents nearly 1 million residents of the 30th Senate District, which ranges from Century City to South Los Angeles and takes in Culver City, Cheviot Hills, Crenshaw District, USC, downtown L.A. and a portion of Inglewood.*



**LOS ANGELES AREA**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**Audrey Dow**  
Senior Vice President  
The Campaign for College Opportunity

Audrey Dow is the Senior Vice President for The Campaign for College Opportunity, a statewide policy/advocacy organization working to ensure more Californians have the opportunity to go to college and succeed. Audrey is responsible for building and sustaining a strong coalition of business, community, civil rights and student leaders, a robust research agenda that provides the latest data and trends in higher education in California for policymakers and the public, and strategic media and communications activities that keep the issues of access, success and affordability front and center.

Before joining the Campaign, Audrey served as Programs and Policy Director for Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) and was Special Assistant to the Secretary for the California Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency under former California Governor Gray Davis. Audrey received a BS in Public Policy and Management from the University of Southern California and a Master's in Public Affairs with an emphasis in Domestic Policy, and a certificate in Urban Policy, from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. She serves on the Parent Board of the Mayfield Senior School and is the California State Senate's appointee to the California Awards for Innovation in Higher Education Committee. Audrey is the proud mother of four little Californians.

# EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Education & Workforce Development Council of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce advocates for improving alignment of the cradle-to-career educational pipeline - from early childhood to K-12, to post-secondary education, and into the workforce. The Council is committed to ensuring the development of a 21st century workforce capable of competing in a global economy with an emphasis on expanding opportunities for at-risk and underserved populations. Ensuring that California's students have a strong foundation will result in a compounding impact on their educational success and will maximize the impact of downstream investments in later stages of the cradle-to-career continuum.

## Invest in high quality early child care and education

Studies show that investments in early education set the foundation for learning, ensure school readiness and narrows the persistent achievement gap for the region's most vulnerable children. All children should have high quality preschool and childcare experiences and all parents should be able to access affordable programs while feeling confident that their children are experiencing developmentally appropriate learning experiences from caring teachers and caregivers. The Chamber supports increased investments in reimbursement rates that will allow greater access to affordable high quality early education and efforts to provide financial assistance to increase ECE teacher knowledge, competencies, and qualifications with a goal of both improving the quality of the workforce and maintaining and further promoting the diversity of ECE professionals.

## Improve student outcomes and investments for K-12 students

The Chamber supports "The California Way" policies including 21st Century assessments and accountability system based on decentralization, self-accountability and transparency. The Chamber supports investments that will strengthen funding for our schools, such as the Local Control Funding Formula that provides local districts with increased spending flexibility and increased investments in programs addressing out-of-school time for our most vulnerable students. The Chamber supports a new vision of accountability that is inclusive of continuous professional development and supports for educators. These efforts will revivify our teacher shortage and will ensure equity, transparency and flexibility that build local engagement and capacity.

## Increase postsecondary access and attainment

In today's economy, a postsecondary credential is the key to both expanding individuals' employability and earnings potential and to improving socioeconomic mobility within our community. The Chamber supports efforts to expand college access and affordability, from increasing need-based financial aid, to providing more support for non-tuition costs for students with financial need. The Chamber also supports creating multiple on-ramps back to college for adults with "some college, no degree" and for workers in need of "upskilling." We champion innovations within our higher education systems that increase student completion, shorten time to graduation, and improve system efficiencies and alignment. This includes supporting performance-based funding to reward degree completion and serving under-represented and low-income students, student success initiatives, creation of an online community college, promoting regional alignment of transfer pathways, and revamping developmental education.

## Close Los Angeles' skills gap

It is vital that we continue to invest in workforce development efforts that are tied to labor market and employer demand, including paid work experiences and internships for young adults. This also includes

Workforce efforts and improved regional coordination of workforce development systems and services to address the needs of vulnerable populations. Additionally, the Chamber is a strong supporter of reviving the California teaching profession by supporting investments to recruit new teachers and retain existing educators through tuition assistance, loan forgiveness, and other incentives like housing programs and tax credits.

## Smart justice reforms

The Chamber supports policies that mitigate barriers for the reentry population and enhance access to high-quality education and workforce opportunities for justice-involved youth and adults. The Chamber also supports policies that uphold evidence-based diversion and intervention models that aim to disrupt the systemic causes of mass incarceration and dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline.

## Students and mixed status families

In L.A. County, there are an estimated 520,146 children who live in mixed status families. The highly publicized restrictions toward undocumented individuals is having the unanticipated consequence of having families not send their children to child care centers, school or access financial aid programs available for college students. There are numerous reports of families not applying for public benefits and other services to which they are entitled. The L.A. business community is a strong supporter of state efforts that maintain safeguards that provide families with a higher level of protections in or near educational institutions and government buildings where public services are provided.

## Lead innovative work-life harmony

The Chamber encourages employers to have a robust work life environment in the workplace. Well-designed work life policies increase job satisfaction, create loyal employees and allow employers to compete in today's workforce. The Chamber supports employer policies that encompass flexible work schedules, child care support and allow for community engagement.

### 2019 Education & Workforce Development Council Leadership



**Chair**  
**Tamika Lang**  
The Boeing Co.



**Co-chair**  
**Donita Willoughby**  
Southern California Gas Company,  
a Sempra Energy utility



**Co-chair**  
**Deane Leavenworth**  
Leavenworth  
Endeavors



**Co-chair**  
**Kim Pattillo Brownson**  
First 5 LA



# ACCESS SACRAMENTO

May 14-15, 2019



Share your business perspective with California's top decision makers as you join Los Angeles business and civic leaders on the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce's annual advocacy trip to our state capital. Meet with key legislators and high-ranking officials to advocate for issues important to you and L.A.'s business community.

**This year's event will feature the opportunity to meet with members of Governor Newsom's administration.**

RSVP **NOW** ▶

## PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

### TUESDAY, MAY 14

6 p.m.

Opening Reception & Dinner

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

8 - 9 a.m.

Breakfast & Program

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Advocacy Meetings  
No-host lunch

4 - 5:30 p.m.

Closing Reception

### Early-bird registration is \$275.

After April 26, registration will increase to \$300. Fee includes briefing materials, meeting arrangements and organized meal functions. ACCESS Sacramento is open to members of the L.A. Area Chamber and special guests. Space is limited. No refunds after May 7.

### Event Accommodations

Hotel accommodations at the **Sheraton Grand** are not included in the registration price. A group rate of \$199 per night is available. Call the hotel at 916.447.1700 to make your reservations and mention the group name "Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce." Room availability is limited. Please call or click the link below to book the hotel room.

**Book by April 23 to confirm your room.**

For more information, contact [Maribel Flores](#), 213.580.7571.

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# CradletoCareerCA.com

## The Cradle to Career Agenda for California

California invests over \$72 billion annually – 38 percent of the state’s budget, on cradle to career investments. We need to prepare future generations for new challenges, which will allow Californians to maintain and improve their quality of life in the Golden State.

### EARLY EDUCATION: PRESCHOOL AND CHILDCARE

- Provide quality and affordable childcare and preschool for all of California’s young children

### K -12 EDUCATION

- Ensure that children are ready for kindergarten, building on early learning experiences.
- Maximize student success through qualified, skilled and supportive teachers in every classroom
- Bolster local planning, decision-making and implementation capacity to meet unique of students in a given community
- Increase student engagement and motivation by connecting learning to the real-world

### HIGHER EDUCATION

- Develop a vision for public higher education system and increase credential and degree attainment
- Close attainment gaps for underserved, underrepresented and non-traditional students
- Make higher education accessible and affordable
- Improve accountability and transparency through better alignment and data

### WORKFORCE OUTCOMES

- Take an innovative workforce-focused, skills-based approach to poverty reduction
- Invest in regional workforce partnerships
- Develop workforce strategies for California’s immigrant workforce

California’s next governor, state superintendent and legislative leaders will have incredible power to impact the future of California’s children and economy. The Cradle to Career Agenda provides a road map to success. To view a copy of the full report, visit [cradletocareerca.com](http://cradletocareerca.com).

