

Announcing the 2013 BCLI Cohort

The 2013 Cohort of the Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute has been selected, and includes twelve leaders from around the region. Don't miss the opportunity to meet the Cohort at the BCLI Launch event on August 21st!

Precious Barnes (nominated by Move to Amend Sacramento) has been in community organizing for over 15 years, starting with a faith based organization in outreach and social services ministry. Most recently, she graduated from the City of Sacramento Management Academy. She also has over 10 years of experience as a real estate consultant.

Natasha Broadway (nominated by Neighborhoods United) is a community health leader, resident voice, resource education specialist and works with amazing non-profits who utilize all their resources to create healthy communities. Through these experiences and opportunities, she gained skills, resources and partnerships that she considers instrumental to her overall mission to fortify equitable environments in underserved communities.

Alcira E. Dominguez (nominated by California Women Lead) has been in public service for the past 11 years. She held the positions of grant manager and community relations associate at Beach Cities Health District, a special district in Redondo Beach, where she also served as city commissioner. Since relocating to Sacramento, she has consulted for Vision y Compromiso, a nonprofit *promotores* organization, and to the California Office of Health Equity under the auspices of the Public Health Institute. She is eager to get involved in and contribute to her community in ways that will make a difference.

Michael Godina (nominated by Sacramento Habitat for Humanity) has always been fascinated by the role government plays in our lives. In addition to volunteering for numerous campaigns, he has had the privilege of interning for Senate President Pro-tem Darrell Steinberg and Governor Jerry Brown in his appointments office. Michael recently completed a year of service as an AmeriCorps member serving Sacramento Habitat for Humanity. Michael hopes to be an effective voice for the underrepresented members of his community.

Lavenia Kotobalavu (nominated by the Office of Samoan Affairs) is a native of the Republic of Fiji Islands, and currently a Case Manager for the Office of Samoan Affairs Agency in Sacramento County. She has served on various Boards advocating for minority equality and advancement for those living within impoverished communities. Also, her perseverance has brought her onto global taskforces such as International Justice Mission (IJM) fighting for the rights of human trafficking victims and into partnerships with local law enforcement and government officials. Her desire is to serve as a voice for disadvantaged communities and inspire those listening to join the movement to effectively advocate for their cities.

Tawny Macedo (nominated by Alchemist Community Development Corporation) is a CalFresh Policy Analyst for the California Department of Social Services, where she develops and implements household reporting policies to reduce program churn and improve program access for Californians. She also

volunteers with the Alchemist CDC to provide CalFresh recipients with access to fresh produce at the central Sacramento certified farmer's market. Tawny has previous experience in affordable housing development, public health, and nutrition and physical activity research. Her personal and professional goals include improving health, food access and civic engagement to promote equity for disadvantaged populations.

Shawn Mainville (nominated by Alchemist Community Development Corporation) is a CalFresh policy analyst with the State of California where, for the last four years, he has led efforts to increase program access and fair treatment of applicants and recipients. He volunteers with the Alchemists CDC at the central Sacramento farmers market providing CalFresh recipients access to fresh fruits and vegetables utilizing a scrip system. Shawn is a single father to a nearly six year old daughter and enjoys fishing and kickball in his free time.

Jefferson McGee (nominated by Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment) has enjoyed residing in Sacramento County for forty plus years. He has been involved in the real estate industry in the greater Sacramento Region for over twenty years. Presently, he is working as an activist helping to build healthy communities in the County of Sacramento.

Andres Ramos (nominated by Democratic Party of Sacramento County) is the Parliamentarian for the Democratic Party of Sacramento County. He is a local activist and community volunteer. He serves on the City of Elk Grove's Multicultural Committee and on the Elk Grove Unified School District's Finance Committee.

Russell Rawlings (nominated by Resources for Independent Living) is a Texan by birth, but over the last decade, California has captured his heart. Sacramento has given him many things: independence, exposure to an entire world of diversity, education, entertainment, and a place I feel truly at home. While here, he has learned that these gifts don't come for free, but rather from an engaged citizenry.

Allie Shilin (nominated by the Sacramento Native American Health Center) is the Administrative Coordinator for the Sacramento Native American Health Center. While she wears many hats, Allie's main role is to coordinate among various departments, executives, and Board-level leaders to ensure that the Health Center is meeting stated goals and objectives and consistently working to enhance agency operations. She is highly involved in the SNAHC continuous quality improvement program in an effort to ensure quality and accessibility of care for all patients. Allie is an enrolled member of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians.

Mai Yang Vang (nominated by Hmong Innovating Politics) is a daughter of Hmong refugee parents, a proud Sacramento native and the eldest of 16 children. She currently works as a Policy Associate at California Forward, a nonpartisan, non-profit organization working to bring government closer to the people. Mai is a Community Organizer with HIP (Hmong Innovating Politics) and sits on the Executive Board of the Asian Pacific Islander Democrats of Sacramento County. She has worked on education, labor and racial/ethnic health disparities issues with various local and national Asian American & Pacific Islander policy organizations.