

Greetings Colleagues:

Welcome to the Spring 2023 CSSO Conference “Liberation Now – Radical Actions for Today.” I am so excited to gather with you in person for the first time in over two years.

The importance of our roles as student services professionals is even more pronounced now given the myriad of challenges our students and organizations face. Considering these ongoing challenges, let’s not lose sight of the responsibility we hold in ensuring that the 1.8 million community college students throughout the state find a place they belong at one of our colleges. We are looking to each of you to elevate practices that lead to student success and dismantle the systematic barriers our students face along the way. We must do this boldly, unapologetically, and radically. As CSSOs, we are committed to joining you in this work.

I want to take a moment to define our use of the word radical. Our hope is that you use your role to “affect the fundamental nature” of the system we work within. Be advocates for social change. Be progressive in your thoughts and actions. Revolutionize the experience for our students and the way you and your team deliver services.

We have intentionally planned a series of sessions over the next few days to deepen your ability to perform your roles. I urge you to lean in and engage with your colleagues. You are not alone in addressing the impacts of COVID, enrollment pressures, social inequities, and the day-to-day tasks of our work in student services. My hope is that this conference builds your capacity both personally and professionally for the work ahead.

Thank you for your support of the spring conference. I look forward to meeting each of you over the next few days. Let’s continue to change the lives of our students.

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