



**CENTER TO CLOSE
THE OPPORTUNITY GAP**

CSU The California State University

Leadership Change in CCOG

The CSU Center to Close the Opportunity Gap (CCOG) welcomes its new Co-Director, Dr. Caroline Lopez-Perry following the departure of Dr. Corinne Martinez who begins a new position as Associate Dean of the College of Education at CSU Dominguez Hills in early July. Dr. Martinez has served in this position at CCOG alongside Co-Director Dr. Cara Richards-Tutor since its inception in 2020. Dr. Lopez-Perry joins Dr. Richards-Tutor to lead the CSU-wide Center in fulfilling its mission to collaboratively learn, work, and leverage opportunities across sectors, to support systemic change and advance K-12 students' academic success.

Meet Dr. Lopez-Perry

Dr. Lopez-Perry is an Associate Professor in the School Counseling program in the College of Education at CSULB and the coordinator for school counseling fieldwork experiences. Already a team member of the CCOG faculty group, Dr. Lopez-Perry has worked with the Center since 2021. Prior to her work in counselor education, Dr. Lopez-Perry was a school counselor in the elementary and middle school setting.



School counselor leadership, specifically the school counselors' role in promoting equity in education through program design, service delivery, advocacy, and educational reform, is Dr. Lopez-Perry's primary focus in her research and publications. Other areas include group counseling, school counseling classroom instruction, career and college readiness, and the recruitment and retention of school counselors of color. Recent publications include, the "California State of Student Wellness" report, which captured multiple years of student wellness data throughout the pandemic and "Engaging in Political Leadership and Macrolevel Advocacy: School Counselors Leading for Student Mental Wellness" in the *Journal of Counselor Leadership and Advocacy*. Recently Dr. Lopez-Perry served as co-editor for the *Journal of College Access* special issue, "Access and Blackness: Antiracist College Counseling and Advising" which focused on interrogating racist policy, ideology, as well as counseling and pedagogical praxis which negatively impact Black youth in schools and amidst their post-secondary pursuits. Dr. Lopez-Perry also co-authored the *Best Practice Guidelines for California School Counselors*.

In addition, Dr. Lopez-Perry served with the California Department of Education Mental Health Work Group, which underscores the understanding of K-12 student mental health needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Lopez-Perry is also the recipient of the 2021 California Association of School Counselors Counselor Educator of the Year award.

The CCOG remains grateful to the vision and leadership of Dr. Corinne Martinez who led, alongside Dr. Richards-Tutor, the Center's multi-campus initiative. During her time with CSULB, Dr. Martinez was Associate Professor in Teacher Education, served as the Department Chair in Liberal Studies, was Director of the CSU Collaborative for the Advancement of Linked Learning (CSU CALL), and Program Coordinator for the graduate program in Curriculum and Instruction and the Single Subject Credential program.

Best wishes to Dr. Martinez on her new position as Associate Dean at CSUDH, and welcome Dr. Lopez-Perry!