

Listening to Students
An Invitation to Those Wanting to Do This Work

We strive for every student's success. We know how much students stand to gain for themselves, their families, and their future generations with a college education, and we know how much our communities and country stand to gain, as well. But we may not always know how best to serve the many different students in our classrooms or across our office desks or counters.

Listening to Students is a project done at two separate institutions, which brings the perspectives of students directly to those who serve them in education, using the power of student voices to expand minds, touch hearts, and contribute in profound ways to inclusivity, equity, and student success.

Listening to Students is meant to inform and inspire those in higher education and foster greater awareness and advocacy for all students, especially those most at risk and in need in academia. This work may be found at the California State University, Sacramento Student Academic Success and Equity Programs website for **[Listening to Students](https://www.csus.edu/student-affairs/retention-academic-success/spotlights/listening-to-students.html)** (<https://www.csus.edu/student-affairs/retention-academic-success/spotlights/listening-to-students.html>).

One quick look at the project will show its tremendous potential to transform your own campus or sphere of campus work. This is a project that can be done at any institution of higher education, in a number of different ways and to any degree, smaller- to larger-scale, and by just about anyone, ranging from instructors at any level or department to administrators or staff in a host of organizations and services.

Listening to Students is very likely the first of its kind in the nation, and something more campuses need.

The innovative nature of ***Listening to Students*** has been featured by the following organizations, as the links provided will show: The **[National Association of Student Personnel Administrators](#)**, the **[RP Group: Researching, Planning, and Professional Development for California Colleges](#)**, and the **[National Communication Association](#)**. Other organizations have also acknowledged the innovativeness of the work and its value as a resource over the past years, including the American Association of State College and Universities, the Association of American Colleges and Universities, the Association for Institutional Research: Data and Decisions for Higher Education, the International Listening Association, and the Network for Change and Continuous Innovation in Higher Education.

I have had the pleasure of watching this project unfold on two institutions now, and seen its power to transform how we see our students, our campus, our work, and ourselves. I wish this for all institutions of higher education.

The project has been done in two different ways, one or both of which may be what your campus or work needs:

Listening to Students: Focus on Student Diversity

If you are interested in learning more about this work and how it was done, please see **[“Listening to Students - Student Diversity”](#)** for a summary and description of the process taken, as well as the forms used in doing this work, which you're welcome to adapt to your own campus or work.

Listening to Students Who Ever Thought About Leaving College or Did Leave and Came Back: Focus on Student Retention

If you are interested in learning more about this work and how it was done, please see **[“Listening to Students - Student Retention”](#)** for a summary and description of the process taken, as well as the forms used in doing this work, which you're welcome to adapt to your own campus or work.

If I may ever be of assistance to you in bringing the work to your own institution or campus work, please do reach out.

Sincerely yours,
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