



EDUCATIONAL
OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM
CSU BAKERSFIELD

Our Stories, Our Way

Making good trouble

“Tell the story. Tell the story. And tell it over and over again...” John Lewis on the importance of sharing experiences of injustice to create change

On February 14, 2025, the Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights in the US Department of Education issued a “Dear Colleague” letter, threatening to withdraw federal financial assistance for any educational institution that promotes Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. To withdraw support for higher education now would be an injustice because, as Vincent Tinto famously observed, *access without support is not opportunity*.

A product of the Civil Rights Era, EOP offers access, support, and advocacy to California’s economically disadvantaged populations. By targeting economic disadvantage, EOP has always sought to disrupt generational poverty, embracing and affirming the identities of all our students in the process. While diversity is not the basis for what EOP does, it is both a positive and necessary outcome of what we have done over the past 55 years.

We cannot know what the future holds, but we acknowledge our voices—all our voices—are critical now more than ever to ensuring we fulfill our mission. The column on the right highlights key opportunities for EOP students to help shape our stories. Let’s continue to bring the fullness of our voices and our identities to the spaces we create and beyond.

EOP Student Advisory Board

A chance to have your voice heard. EOP was born when students demanded it. In that tradition of advocacy, EOP staff are calling for the formation of an EOP Student Advisory Board.

EOP Student Podcast

A monthly podcast co-produced by EOP staff and students, covering a range of topics relevant to first-generation students.

EOP Newsletter

A weekly communication to all currently-enrolled CSUB EOP students. We welcome all submissions that illuminate the first-generation experience.

All interested students should email mcuate@csub.edu

