

## Higher Education



Marissiko Wheaton will be working with Dr. Darnell Cole. She earned her bachelor's degree from UC Irvine, and her master's from NYU. Her research interests include college student social identity development, student activism and the impacts of campus climate



Jennifer Anaya will be working with Dr. Tatiana Melguizo. She earned her bachelor's degree from UC Merced. Her research interests include college access, equity, persistence, and graduation among English Language Learners and low socioeconomic status students



Arely Acuña Avilez will be working with Dr. Adrianna Kezar and Dr. Kristan Venegas. She earned her bachelor's degree from UC Irvine, and her master's degree from UCLA. Her research interests include the factors that contribute to the academic persistence and resiliency of historically underrepresented students, particularly undocumented youth in higher education, the systems of oppression that influence access and retention in higher education, and the implications of policies regarding immigration issues on the development and academic experience of undocumented students.



Thomas DePaola will be working with Dr. Adrianna Kezar. He earned his bachelor's degree from SUNY Purchase. His research interests include the community college as a site of civic engagement and student politicization, developmental education reform, assessment and accountability structures, as well as governance and labor issues.



Suneal Kolluri will be working with Dr. William Tierney. He earned his bachelor's degree from UCLA, and his master's from Stanford. His research interests include college access and persistence for low-income youth and underrepresented youth of color, specifically how K-12 schools can promote equitable interactions between diverse students and affect 4-year college-going outcomes for their more marginalized populations.