

## **Ruben E. Canedo**

Ruben E. Canedo (He/They), was born & raised in the border valleys of Coachella, Imperial, and Mexicali. Ruben's academic coursework and publications focus on public higher education, equity, intersectionality, and systems change. Ruben serves as Director of Strategic Equity Initiatives within UC Berkeley's Division of Equity & Inclusion. His responsibilities include research, prevention services, vision & planning, and advocacy.

Ruben was appointed to the dual roles of Chair of the UC Berkeley Basic Needs Committee (2012-2013) and Co-Chair of the UC Systemwide Basic Needs Committee (2013-2014). These efforts have published multiple studies and reports on college student basic needs in research universities, mobilized over \$8M in UC system resources to operationalize campus and systemwide efforts, over \$80M in California State Budget resources, and have helped inform both state and federal policies. UC has a commitment to shape and contribute to data-informed efforts in support of student basic needs, thus making the first publicly available segment-wide basic needs data dashboard via [UC's Basic Needs Experience Dashboard](#).

Beyond UC, Ruben is a co-founder (2014-2015) and facilitator of the California Higher Education Basic Needs Alliance (CHEBNA) that unites and coordinates basic needs efforts across all campuses and statewide offices of California's public higher education segments: California Community Colleges (CCC), California State Universities (CSU), University of California (UC). In February 2019, CHEBNA hosted the largest statewide higher education basic needs summit to date with over 700 participants from all three public higher education segments, research centers, government entities, and advocacy organizations. In 2021, CHEBNA successfully supported efforts that resulted in the California State Budget investment of ongoing funding for basic needs efforts at all three segments of higher education. This baseline funding is essential to sustain services, facilities, and/or staffing (students and career) that support student basic needs.

At a national level, Ruben has been a member of the national #RealCollege movement since its launch and through its emergent journey to connect, coordinate, and support the advancement of basic needs efforts at colleges and universities across the country.

Outside of his higher education roles, Ruben facilitates keynotes & trainings on generational healing, intersectional justice, and transformative movements. Ruben is trained and in training of healing justice, disability justice, transformative justice, Emergent Strategies, W.K. Kellogg Foundation's "Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation," and Brene Brown's "Dare to Lead" curriculum.

Fun fact: Ruben grew up in a traditional martial arts family and is currently a third-degree black belt in traditional Okinawan Shito-Ryu Karate.