

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA  
**2019 POLICY AGENDA**  
**FALL RECESS 2019**



***Economic and Social Mobility for All Californians***

*California's Community colleges are an indispensable investment in our state's present and future prosperity. California's public Community Colleges constitute an accessible path to a better life for generations of low-income and working-class Californians. Our Community Colleges are driven by an enduring vision of equity, and their employees embrace their critical role in lifting the state's economy, closing achievement gaps, and offering quality higher education and workforce development for all Californians.*

**EDUCATIONAL QUALITY THROUGH HIGHER PER-STUDENT FUNDING**

**• Fully Fund the SCFF and Backfill Property Tax Shortfalls**

There is a critical nexus between per-student funding and educational quality. Sufficient resources encourage innovation and promotes fiscal stability for districts confronting rapidly growing energy, pension, and instructional costs. Our highest priority is to protect quality public higher education opportunities for Californians by securing a robust investment in California's community colleges.

System	Per-Student Funding
UC	\$33,569
CSU	\$18,445
K-12	\$12,018
CCC	\$8,306

In 2018, state leaders adopted a new funding formula predicated on the goal of increasing successful outcomes of low-income and traditionally underserved Californians. We respectfully request State leaders to automatically increase the California Community College general fund allocation to fully fund the Student Centered Funding Formula (SCFF) and, when necessary, to backfill any shortfalls in the SCFF and property taxes. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century labor market necessitates some postsecondary education. This economic reality requires a continued investment in and protection of the educational opportunities provided by California's community colleges.

**EQUITY & AFFORDABILITY: RE-ENVISION FINANCIAL AID**

**• Equitably Fund Financial Aid for Community College Students**

As currently structured, Cal Grants continue to distribute less than 10% of its resources to California community college students despite the fact that our students comprise two-thirds of the higher education population. State leaders continue to perpetuate structures that oppresses low-income students of color when they exclude community college students from basic needs proposals and unfairly limit access to financial aid. It's past time to reform California's financial aid system to cover community college student's total cost of attendance.

## **PROTECT COLLEGE INFRASTRUCTURE & LEARNING RESOURCES**

### **• Fund Deferred Maintenance & Instructional Equipment**

Colleges are grappling with aging infrastructure that requires replacement, renovation, or retrofitting. In the status quo, the resources needed to tackle such projects compete with student supports and services. We respectfully request for a 2020-21 budget that includes the necessary funding for instructional equipment and deferred maintenance. Absence of these funds constitutes a significant threat to a college's ability to offer quality learning experiences on a safe, clean, and adequately equipped campus environment.

## **CLOSE THE GROWING BACCALAUREATE DEGREE GAP**

### **• Continuation and Expansion of Baccalaureate Degrees at CCCs**

According to a PPIC report, if current trends continue, California will face a skills gap of 1.1 million workers with bachelor's degrees by 2030. Failure to keep up with the demand for skilled workers will curtail economic growth, limit economic mobility, and increase inequality. The result will be a less productive California economy, lower incomes and tax revenue, and increased dependence on the social safety net. We strongly urge continuation and expansion of the Baccalaureate degree programs at community colleges, as well as the exploration of innovative partnerships between community colleges and four-year universities that reduce a students' time to degree.

## **BUILD FISCAL RESILIENCY**

### **• Employees Deserve Certainty in Retirement - Address Unfunded Liabilities**

College employees deserve the certainty of a funded pension in retirement. Unfunded pension liabilities continue to represent a major fiscal burden for both the state government and local education agencies (LEAs) within California. These increasing costs are crowding out services intended for student success. We ask the Legislature to partner with LEAs and pay down CalSTRS and CalPERS unfunded liability rate increases for community colleges.

*Quality Public Community Colleges for All Californians*

