



January 2014 Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

Assembly Higher Education Committee

January 7, 2014
State Capitol, Room 437
1:30 PM

Discussion on Basic Skills

Sponsored by Campaign for College Opportunity
January 9, 2014
State Capitol, Room 126
2:00 PM

Governor Announces 2014-2015 Budget

January 10th, 2014

Joint Oversight Hearing on Adult Education

January 22, 2014
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
State Capitol, Room TBD

Select Committee on Community Colleges

January 22, 2014
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM
State Capitol, Room TBD

Legislative Conference

January 26-27, 2014
Register at:
www.ccleague.org

21st Century Community

Consider This

Legislature Returns to Sacramento

Members have returned to the legislature today and are already getting back to work. They will start introducing legislation, holding committee hearings and await the release of the Governor's budget proposal. League staff are in and out of the Capitol, working to make sure that legislators and their staff understand the importance of community colleges.

Two new Assemblymembers have been elected since the legislature last met, replacing legislators who resigned to become members of the LA city council. Matt Dababnegh will represent a district in the San Fernando Valley and Sebastian Ridley-Thomas was elected in a district in west LA. Another Assemblymember, Holly Mitchel, was elected to the State Senate. Two vacancies have occurred, with Holly Mitchel moving to the Senate and Senator Bill Emmerson resigning his post.

Potential hot legislative topics regarding community colleges are:

- Baccalaureate Degrees
- Concurrent/Dual Enrollment
- Adult Education
- Performance Based Funding
- Career Technical Education
- Financial Aid
- K-14 Education Bond

To see the different pieces of legislation that affects community colleges, please check out the League's legislative tracking system by

clicking [here](#). Developed by the President and CEO of the League, Scott Lay, it provides analyses on the impact of the bill to community colleges, the League's position and where the bill is.

Your campus will provide a crucial role in making sure legislators understand how their choices will affect community colleges. To help you see the ebb and flow of the legislative year, please consult the chart below. The chart highlights when it is better to contact your legislator regarding legislation and when it is best to invite legislators onto your campus.

Time of the Year	Notes
January and February	Budget and new legislation is introduced. Take this time to visit the League's legislative tracking system to see our initial take on the bills.
March through June	Legislators will meet via committee and floor votes to consider different pieces of legislation. Pay attention for League alerts and this newsletter for opportunities for your college to get involved in the process.
July	Legislature is on recess.
August	The legislature's deadline to pass legislation is August 31st . A very important time for your college to be contacting your legislators regarding legislation.
September	The Governor has until September 30 th to sign or veto bills passed by the legislature.
October through December	The legislature is out on recess and legislators are working or campaigning in their districts. This is a great opportunity for you to showcase your campus. The general election is on November 4th .

If you have any questions about the process, please contact the League's legislative advocates, Ryan McElhinney or Lizette Navarette. They can be reached at ryan@ccleague.org or lizette@ccleague.org.

Community College League's Legislative Conference

With so many changes on the horizon for community colleges, it's important to stay abreast of the policy themes surfacing in Sacramento. The League's Annual Legislative Conference provides a distinctive opportunity to connect with key legislators and obtain the latest analysis on the state budget. Attendees will also learn about legislative proposals affecting colleges, student learning, and advocacy strategies for the current legislative year. Join

your community college colleagues in the launch of this exciting legislative year as we advocate for community colleges. For more information, please click [here](#).

Must Reads

Boosting California's Postsecondary Education Performance: A Policy Statement and Call to Action.

By Patrick M. Callan, et al. Committee for Economic Development. November 2013.

<http://www.ced.org/reports/single/boosting-californias-postsecondary-education-performance-a-policy-statement>

(The Committee for Economic Development (CED) describes itself as “a nonprofit, nonpartisan, business-led public-policy organization that delivers well-researched analysis and reasoned solutions to our nations most critical issues.... in a number of fields including education and global competitiveness.”)

On November 26th, in collaboration with Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, the Committee for Economic Development (CED) released this report which examines the condition of California's postsecondary education and provides recommendations for improvement, focusing on issues that include the major demographic shifts in school- and working-age Californians, state-based opportunities in education and training; the projected shortage of workers with education and training beyond high school, and financial impediments for students and families.

While presenting much of the information that we are already aware of, including changing demographics, below US-average numbers of AA/BA holders, the achievement gap, rising costs for higher education, etc., this report asserts that the “broad-access colleges and universities” (i.e., CSU, community colleges and the private profit and non-profit sectors) will face the greatest challenges and play a “pivotal role” in strengthening California's postsecondary education.

In conclusion, this report calls for:

- More attention to the future higher education needs of the state;
- The need for greater leadership from within and from outside higher education;
- Demonstrated learning outcomes and competence in place of seat time;
- More integration and collaboration across public institutions and systems (instead of the “independent activities of institutions and sectors”);
- Greater collaboration with K-12; and
- Recognition of the community colleges and CSU as essential to California's economic and civic success.

Note: Lt Gov Gavin Newsom will address these issues as well as his plans -- for discussing these issues with business leaders and other concerned Californians in public forums;

proposing that business and higher education leaders sponsor a forum in 2015 to assess the state's progress in addressing these issues, and pressing for "action-oriented planning including the role of public and private finance in meeting California's higher education needs" -- at our annual Legislative Conference closing luncheon, on Monday, January 27th.

The State of Blacks in Higher Education in California.

By the Campaign for College Opportunity, December 2013.

http://www.collegecampaign.org/files/5613/8619/1254/State_of_Higher_Education_Black.pdf

This report, the second in a new series on the state of higher education in California, focuses on the persistent disparity in the opportunity gaps between Black students and their White and Asian counterparts which continues to persist and, in some cases, have worsened.

Their recommendations for eliminating these achievement gaps include:

- Create a statewide plan for higher education
- Expand college knowledge;
- Invest in services students need to succeed;
- Fund colleges for both enrollment and success;
- Strengthen financial support options for students; and
- Encourage colleges and universities to reach out and re-enroll students who are close to completing a degree.