



Office of Government Relations

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

February 2014 Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

Select Committee on Community Colleges

February 18, 2014
2:00 PM
Room 126

2014 ACCCA Conference

February 26-28, 2014
Hilton San Diego Resort
www.accca.org

Last Day for Legislature to Introduce New Bills

February 21, 2014

March in March

March 3, 2014
www.studentsenateccc.org

*Follow Bills Tracked by the
League at:*

www.ccleague.org/bills

League Happenings

Community College Advocates Gather at the 2014 Legislative Conference in Sacramento

On January 26 and 27, nearly 300 community college trustees, CEOs, faculty, staff, and students descended on the State Capitol with a message of restoring access, improving student success and delivering equity. The League's 2014 Legislative Conference was met with a tone of gratitude as the Governor's proposed budget offers opportunities for California's community colleges to begin the critical restoration of America's largest higher education system.



Offering a compelling case to close gaps in socio-economic equity, Richard Kahlenberg from The Century Foundation, inspired attendees in the opening keynote address. Advocates previewed this session's key policy themes in discussions with Assemblymembers Das

William, Rocky Chavez, Al Muratsuchi, Joan Buchanan, and Senator Marty Block. In the closing keynote, Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom challenged colleges to explore new ways of doing business as he illustrated just how quickly technology and globalization is changing our world. See what Sacramento Bee columnist Dan Walters

had to say about Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom's keynote address: <http://www.sacbee.com/2014/02/02/6120853/dan-walters-lt-gov-newsom-offers.html>. On Monday, attendees met with legislators about the improved outcomes colleges are seeing made possible by the hard work of faculty and staff to deliver student success.

League Releases 2014 Budget & Policy Talking Points

Every year following the release of the Governor's proposed budget and after consultation with the trustees and CEOs boards, the League publishes budget and policy talking points. This year's points focus on the reinvestment in community colleges while recognizing resources needed for continued strides in access, student success, and equity.

The 2014-15 talking points can be found at the following link:

<http://www.ccleague.org/files/public/Budget2014TalkPts.pdf>

Capitol Context

Joint Policy Hearing Analyses Adult Education

A major statewide policy dialogue around adult education redesign and reinvestment has come to the forefront. To gain a better understanding of the current adult education landscape and unmet needs in both community college and K-12 districts, the Senate Education and Assembly Higher Education committees held a joint informational hearing on January 29, 2014. Representatives from the California Department of Education, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, the Legislative Analyst's Office, and college administrators shared updates on the AB 86 regional planning consortia and discussed elements of potential legislation that would impact the adult education redesign.

The League's Government Relations staff offered comments which emphasized colleges' commitment to the AB 86 planning process which ensures local regions can determine how best to close adult education achievement gaps. Staff reminded legislators that non-credit courses are a vehicle that community colleges use to remain flexible to local needs and to address the economic cycles and volatility of our state. Adult education redesign and reinvestment continues to be a top priority for the League. We appreciate Governor Brown's commitment to the collaborative regional consortia process and continue to oppose legislation that eliminates local flexibility by reducing funding categories.

Stay informed about legislation tracked by the League: <http://www.ccleague.org/bills>

Must Reads

Charting a Course for California's Colleges: State Leadership in Higher Education

California Competes, January 2014

This report notes that California is one of only two states without comprehensive oversight or coordination of higher education (due to the elimination of the California Postsecondary Education Commission). This report examines how states across the nation guide and

coordinate their postsecondary systems, and provides lessons for California. It also provides recommendations on strategies and guidelines that should be included in any uniquely California coordinating body to ensure near-term and long-term success, and includes a specific proposal for how that body could be designed to maximize its ability to articulate a public agenda for higher education.

Read the full report at:

http://californiacompetes.org/news_and_events/charting-a-course/

Changing Equations: How Community Colleges are Re-thinking College Readiness in Math

By Pamela Burdman. LearningWorks, California, 2013.

This brief, by Pamela Burdman, a nationally recognized education policy analyst, philanthropy professional, and journalist, deals with experiments aimed at reversing low community college completion rates by redesigning the remedial math most students must take; she finds that these approaches are yielding promising results. This report highlights a new movement in a growing number of the nation's community colleges to prioritize statistics and quantitative reasoning, a major departure from the traditional one-size-fits-all remedial math sequence that emphasizes intermediate algebra.

Early results – including a dramatic jump from 6 to 51 percent in the proportion of students completing college-level math in their first year of college — are lending credence to the theory that the alternative pathways are better tailored to academic majors that don't require intermediate algebra. About a quarter of California's 112 community colleges, as well as numerous colleges in at least a dozen other states, have begun to develop these alternatives for non-STEM (science, technology, engineer, and math) students.

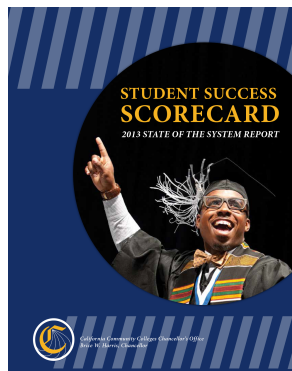
The alternative math pathways supplement other remedial math reforms that colleges and college systems have been pursuing for several years – including changes to instructional practices as well as placement policies.

Read the full report at:

<http://www.learningworksca.org/changingequations/>

An In-Depth Look

State of the System Report Highlights Successes and Opportunities for Colleges



The California Community Colleges system is quickly becoming one of the most transparent and accountable systems of higher education in the country. The recent release of the *Student Success Scorecard – 2013 State of the System Report* represents an unparalleled level of transparency on student progress and success metrics.

The *2013 State of the System Report* illustrates some of the early fruits of the Student Success Initiative. As indicated in the report, despite a 22 percent drop in the number of students served between 2007-2008 and 2012-2013 due to the severe cuts made by the state, community colleges have seen a 25 percent increase in awarded certificates and degrees. A promising trend that is noted is the rise to 70.7 percent in completion rates for all credit classes. The data available in this scorecard demonstrate how well colleges are doing in remedial instruction, job training programs, retention of students and graduation and completion rates.

Read the full report at:

http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/Portals/0/FlipBooks/2013_StateOfSystem/2013_StateOfTheSystem_Report.htm