



Office of Government Relations

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

February 2016 Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

National Legislative ACCT Summit:

Washington, DC
February 8th – 11th

Consultation Council

Sacramento, CA:
February 18th

Bill Introduction

Deadline:
February 19

2016 ACCCA

Conference:
Riverside, CA
February 17th – 19th

Asilomar Leadership Skill Seminar:

Pacific Grove, CA
March 1st – 4th

Follow Bills Tracked at:
www.ccleague.org/bills

Follow budget and policy
news at:
www.ccleague.org/policy

Have an event you would
like to highlight? Send
event info to
ryan@ccleague.org, or

Legislation Introduced to Implement CA Promise

The League is pleased to announce that several pieces of legislation to help implement the California Promise have been introduced to help reform the state's financial aid system and better serve community college students. To support the implementation of the California Promise, the League has created a website that contains information on current "promise" programs, data on how financial aid resources are distributed in this state and updates on legislation and budget proposals that will help implement the promise. It can be accessed by visiting: <http://www.calcollegepromise.org>.

Currently, according to The Institute for College Access and Success, it is generally more expensive for a financially needy student to attend a community college than to attend either the University of California or the California State University. For more details, please [click here](#). By making targeted reforms to the Cal Grant and Board of Governors' Fee Waiver programs, the following legislation will increase financial aid resources for all needy students, not just students at community colleges.

Legislation to Reform Cal Grant B

Currently, the only portion of the Cal Grant program that community college students are eligible for is the Cal Grant B Access award, currently set at \$1,551. These resources are intended to help a student pay for living expenses while attending school. To reform the program to better serve community college students, Assemblymember Medina has introduced AB 1721 (Medina) that will:

- Increase the access award to \$3,000.
- Increase the number of competitive awards to 30,000.
- Make it easier for a non-traditional student to qualify for the Cal Grant Transfer Entitlement Program.

Legislation to Reform Cal Grant C

Similar to Cal Grant B, community college students in a career technical education program are only eligible for an access award of \$547. Additionally, the allowable use for the award is far more narrow so that students cannot use it to pay for all living expenses. Assemblymember Medina will introduce legislation that will:

- Increase the amount of the access award.
- Increase the allowable use of that access award.
- Align the Cal Grant C program with community college workforce programs.

Expand Eligibility for Board of Governors Fee Waiver

Assemblymember Santiago has introduced AB 1583, legislation that will increase the number of community college students who are eligible for the Board of Governors Fee Waiver. By decreasing tuition costs for more financially needy students, AB 1583 will help students take more classes, be more academically successful and finish their degrees in less time.

Budget Update – Invest In Our Colleges Now!

On Monday, February 1, community college leaders gathered in Sacramento to share one important message with state leaders - colleges cannot grow innovation and maintain their quality without a base augmentation.

The League recognizes that while this is a good budget and demonstrates a robust investment in growing programs such as workforce development, it unfortunately does not address the long-term fiscal soundness of colleges by providing a base augmentation. General operating expenses truly are the life-blood of a community college. They enable colleges to maintain a level of quality that all California students should be afforded. Our goal is to make a strong case for the importance of funding a base augmentation.

Challenges Within the 2016-17 Budget Proposal

The budget proposal is absent critical resources for the success of colleges and their students.

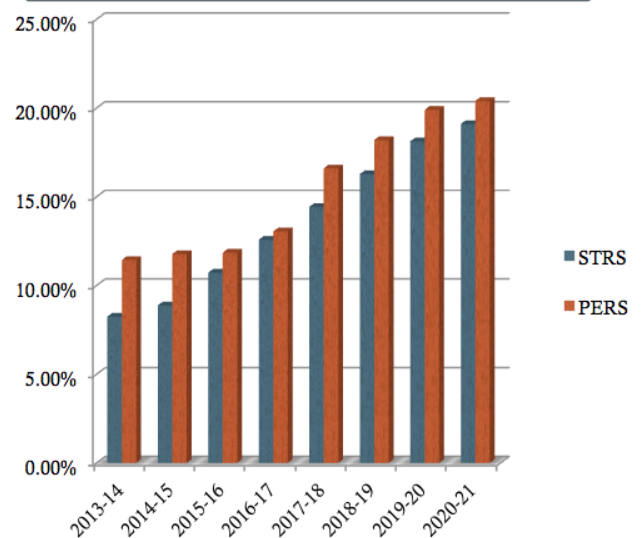
Base Augmentation/General Operations:

Essential funds to help relieve the burden of increased PERS/STRS contribution rates, employer health rates, and increasing energy costs are missing in the 2016-17 budget proposal. These funds are needed to cover the growing cost of business, and ensure the health and safety of our students and faculty is not jeopardized.

Cal Grants/Financial Aid: The budget proposal is also silent about the need for increased investment in financial aid, particularly the Cal Grant program.

Capital Outlay: In this proposal, Governor Brown allocates most discretionary resources to one-time infrastructure spending; however, he does not include a proposal for a school bond. The

Alone, STRS and PERS contribution costs are estimated to increase to approximately \$400 million annually by 2021.



Governor also references the Californians for Quality Schools (CQS) initiative, also known as the GO Bond, objecting to the fact that it does not make changes to the existing K-12 School Facility Program (SFP), and stating that it would add \$500 million in General Fund debt service. The Governor maintains his argument that a new program is needed to correct deficiencies in the existing K-12 program.

Later this month, the League will send further details about policy proposals included in the Governor's budget proposal. We encourage colleges to share your stories and become involved in the budget process. For more information, or to get involved, please contact Lizette Navarette at lizette@cleague.org.

National Legislative Summit Breakfast – You Are Invited!

In partnership with the Chancellor's Office, we will host a set of activities for the California delegation during the **2016 National Legislative Summit in Washington, DC on February 8–11, 2016**. Our goal is to provide you with key information to ensure you have a productive visit in our nation's capital.

2016 National Legislative Summit - February 8-11, 2016

California Delegation Strategy Session – FREE

Tuesday, February 9 • 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Washington Marriott Wardman Park

Prepare for your Capitol Hill visits with federal updates by ACCT Vice President for Public Policy and External Relations Jee Hang Lee, the Chancellor's Office, and the League; and pick up valuable advocacy materials for your Hill visits.

California Delegation Breakfast – \$55/person

Wednesday, February 10 • 7:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.

Washington Marriott Wardman Park

Keynote - Congressman Mark Takano

Mark Takano is the Representative for California's 41st district since 2013. Takano has served on the Riverside Community College District Board of Trustees since 1990. He is a member of the House Education and Workforce Committee, and the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

Register and Make Payment for Breakfast

at: <https://www.ccleague.org/i4a/forms/index.cfm?id=90>

For more information about the National Legislative Summit, please visit:

<http://www.acct.org/events/2016-national-legislative-summit>.

CEO Changes

Helen Benjamin, chancellor of the Contra Costa CCD since 2005, has announced that she will retire in December 2016.

Krista Johns is the new interim president of Berkeley City College, effective immediately.

Ron Taylor, superintendent/president of Merced CCD since 2012, has retired.

Michael Poindexter, vice president of student services at Sacramento City College, has been named interim president of the college.

For more information, contact the League's Government Relations staff:

Rita Mize, Vice President, Governmental Relations | rmize@ccleague.org

Lizette Navarette, Vice President for Policy and Strategy Development | lizette@ccleague.org

Ryan McElhinney, Legislative Advocate | ryan@ccleague.org