



Office of Government Relations

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

April 2015 Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

April 7: Assembly Higher Education Hearing, Sacramento, CA

April 8: Assembly Budget Hearing on Community Colleges – Sacramento, CA

April 13: Senate Budget Hearing

April 16: Consultation Council – Community College Chancellor's Office

April 23: Senate Budget Hearing on Financial Aid

April 30th: Senate Budget Hearing on Community Colleges – Sacramento, CA

May 1-3: Annual Trustees Conference - Monterey Hyatt Regency

May 6-7: Equity Summit – Sheraton, LAX

Follow bills tracked at:
www.ccleague.org/bills

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

Momentum Builds For Concurrent Enrollment

Over 75 organizations, including many school districts, social justice groups, and community colleges, have submitted letters and resolutions in support of AB 288 (Holden), the College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) Act. AB 288 would bring about the long needed reforms to concurrent enrollment, ensuring that a broader cohort of students have access to this effective educational model and reducing policy barriers that hinder the development of these programs. The pathways would be uniquely customized to the needs of local student populations. More importantly, AB 288 would save students and the state time, money, and scarce educational resources.

Key Provisions of AB 288:

Expands Dual Enrollment Partnerships -

- Authorizes a school and community college district to enter into a CCAP partnership with the goal of developing seamless pathways from high school to community college for career technical education or preparation for transfer, or helping high school students achieve college and career readiness.
- Ensures that partnering school and community college districts cannot both be funded for providing the same instructional activity to the same student.
- Requires CCAP partnership agreements to be approved at regularly scheduled open public meetings of the governing boards of both districts, and calls for additional reporting requirements regarding the scope of the partnership.

Removes Statutory Barriers to Dual Enrollment -

- Authorizes community college districts to assign a higher priority enrollment to CCAP participants;
- Allows a community college district to limit enrollment in a course offered on a high school campus solely to CCAP students;
- Allows a CCAP student to enroll in a maximum of 15 units (limited to 4 courses per term) if certain conditions are satisfied; and,
- Prohibits assessing any fees to high school students in CCAP courses.

As AB 288 approaches its first hearing, there is great enthusiasm for the bill. Collaboration with key stakeholders, such as teachers and faculty has been positive and productive. The CCAP Act will be heard in the Assembly Higher Education Committee on Tuesday, April 7 at 1:30 pm in State Capitol room 437. If successful, AB 288 will then be sent to the Assembly Education Committee for a hearing in late April. While there are currently a growing number of supporters, more are needed as the bill moves closer to Assembly Education Committee and the Assembly Appropriations Committee. For information or assistance in submitting a letter of support, please contact Legislative Advocate, Lizette Navarette at lizette@ccleague.org. We thank the many colleges that have supported AB 288 for their efforts.

Governor Rewards Innovation at Colleges

In a continued effort to improve higher education outcomes, particularly for underrepresented individuals, Governor Brown and the California Legislature allocated \$50 million to recognize innovative and ambitious efforts among the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California.

The Awards for Innovation in Higher Education are premised on the idea that California needs a well-functioning, sustainable higher education system that serves all students effectively, as well as new strategies to better coordinate efforts across institutions. The purpose of the Awards for Innovation is to reward campuses that are already doing innovative work in the following areas: increase the number of degrees they award; make the process more timely and efficient; and, collaborate with other institutions of higher education to increase outcomes. In early March, award decisions were made by the Committee on Awards for Innovation in Higher Education. The Committee considered a wide variety of innovations, seeking activities that can be replicated by other institutions, scaled broadly, and have the potential to achieve more equitable outcomes in higher education attainment. California Community Colleges showcased some of their extraordinary efforts to improve student success, and, several colleges were selected for awards. While all applicants and winners demonstrated a commendable commitment to improved student outcomes, we have provided just a small sample of three initiatives led by some of the community college awardees.

Santa Ana Partnership:

The Santa Ana Partnership has a long history of providing structured pathways that lead from high school to college, including offering college-level courses to high school students, a strategy that can help shorten their time-to-degree. The partnership has made system-level changes to strengthen the quality of life and the economy in Santa Ana. Current innovations include a redesign of remedial education to significantly reduce the time spent in pre-collegiate courses and increase the number of students who progress through those courses. In addition, the school district has implemented intensive courses for the twelfth grade designed to help students avoid remediation in college altogether. The collaborative has resulted in 26% of SAUSD graduates accomplishing some college coursework before completing high school. Priority admission to Santa Ana College with financial aid or scholarship support is guaranteed for SAUSD students, followed by guaranteed transfer to both UCI and CSUF. Annually, over 20,000 secondary and college students benefit from the Partnership. The Santa Ana Partnership is changing local culture to ensure students see college as an expectation that can be realized.

West Hills College, Lemoore:

West Hills College Registration 365 (REG365) was a consequential redesign of their education enrollment methods. While traditionally, a student would register for the summer and fall terms during April and wait until November to register for the subsequent spring semester, REG365 encourages students to schedule a full year of courses at the beginning of their first term. This change emphasizes to students the importance of completion-oriented educational planning, rather than a term-to-term view of class registration and enrollment and helps students stay on track. By allowing students to register for a full year of courses at once, they avoid accumulating unneeded units. The college also creates incentives for students to take 15 units each semester (rather than, for example, 12 units), which decreases time to degree completion, transfer, or both. As a result of these initiatives, West Hills has also seen positive improvements in its budgetary planning as annual enrollment and growth goals were met seven months early. Additionally, the college district is supplying faculty with iPads to increase the use of open education resources in their courses and encourage teaching that is more tailored to the needs of students. Clearly, West Hills recognizes that effective monitoring is critical to students' success --- particularly disadvantaged students.

San Francisco City College:

Bridge to Success (BTS) addresses four "loss points" in a San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) student's trajectory to a timely college degree. These loss points are: (1) between 9th and 12th grade; (2) Upon graduation, when graduates do not enroll in a post-secondary program; (3) During matriculation, when students are placed in a remedial math or English sequence they will struggle to complete; and, (4) Once enrolled, when students do not complete their chosen course of study within five years. The college has led innovations in the following areas:

- Early Warning Indicators
- All-in-One Days
- FRISCO Day 2.0 (early college registration offered on-site at high schools)
- Counselor Collaborations
- Advanced Registration

The college has built strong collaboration between the school district and community college, as well as other community partners, to work towards reaching an aggressive college attainment goal for underrepresented students. Bridge to Success has initiatives targeting high school students and significant reforms targeting needed changes at the college level. The college also made strides in coordinating and strengthening a set of previously disconnected student support programs, a low-cost strategy for leveraging existing resources and providing assistance to more students.

Capitol Context

April is a busy month in Sacramento. Since all bills must pass out of their first policy committee by the beginning of May, many bills impacting community colleges will be considered. A select few are listed below; a full range of legislation impacting our districts is available [here](#).

AB 963 (Bonilla) - Recent audits have questioned the eligibility of certain educational administrators to participate CalSTRS. The result has been that a number of community college employees, through no fault on of their own, risk removal from CalSTRS. This bill which would

prevent removal of these administrative employees, will be heard on Tuesday, April 7th by the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

SB 373 (Pan) – This bill would limit the ability of colleges to grow by mandating that any new classes be taught by full-time faculty. It will be heard on Wednesday, April 8th.

Campus Safety Legislation - On April 7th a number of bills will be heard in the Assembly Higher Education Committee. They range from clarifying that a district can expel a student for actions occurring off campus to mandating that a student's transcript reflect any sexual violent act. League staff is working to ensure that these bills will improve public safety and while not being too costly or burdensome.

Employment Legislation – Bills limiting the ability of colleges to make staffing decisions that best fit their community's need will be heard later this month. One, AB 626 (Low) , would mandate that any unspent student success money be used to hire full-time faculty. Another will dictate to colleges the process by which part-time faculty achieve seniority rights. The League is opposed to both of these bills and will be working to ensure that the Legislature understands the negative impact they will have on their local college.

Additional hearings will reflect a range of issues relating to community colleges including community college finances, student veterans, and AB 540 students. Due to bill deadlines, many bills will be approved by the first policy committee this week and forwarded without much substance. Typically the author will make a commitment to work with all interested parties to develop more definitive language as the bill moves forward.

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

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