



# Office of Government Relations

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

## September 2014 Newsletter

### Upcoming Events:

Legislature adjourned for fall recess – returns December 3.

**Community College Facility Coalition – 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference**  
September 8 -10  
Sacramento Convention Center

**Board of Governors Meeting**  
September 9  
1102 Q Street  
Sacramento, CA 95811

**Consultation Council**  
September 18  
1102 Q Street  
Sacramento, CA 95811

**Bill Signing Deadline**  
September 30  
Sacramento, CA

**League Annual Convention**  
November 20-22  
Westin Mission Hills  
Rancho Mirage

### Legislative Session Wraps Up



The legislature has adjourned for the rest of the year. In the last two weeks of session they passed hundreds of bills, some of which affected community colleges. The Governor has until September 30<sup>th</sup> to sign or veto these pieces of legislation. The League is working with the Governor's office and

stakeholders to ensure your voice will be heard regarding these final pieces of legislation. Below is a partial list of the most important bills that are now on the Governor's desk; for a full list, [click here](#). We encourage you to write to the Governor to support/oppose these bills and explain how their passage would affect your college(s).

**AB 1550 (Rendon)** – Would reduce the flexibility of school employers when negotiating contracts with unions. (Oppose)

**AB 1976 (Quirk-Silva)** – Would give the California Student Aid Commission added flexibility by establishing a new formula to more accurately reach the state's annual goal for awarding 22,500 competitive Cal Grant awards. (Support)

**SB 174 and SB 798 (de Leon)** – Would permit Californians to donate to a fund increasing the Cal Grant B access award, from \$1,473 up to a maximum of \$5,000, and receive tax credits for their contribution. (Support)

**SB 850 (Block)** – Would authorize a community college baccalaureate degree pilot program for up to 15 colleges to offer one BA degree each in a vocational and workforce area not offered by the UC or CSU; and would require the Board of Governors to adopt a funding model by March 2015. (Support)

**SB 1028 (Jackson)** – Would permit any unused tuition portion of the Cal Grant C award to be redirected towards living expenses for the long-term unemployed and target those awards to the long-term unemployed. (Support)

**SB 1391 (Hancock)** – Would fund credit courses at the credit rate and CDCP courses at the CDCP rate in state correctional facilities; and would

require the Chancellor's Office and the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to enter into an interagency agreement to provide community college courses to inmates in state correctional facilities. (Support)

## Opportunities to Interact with Your Elected Officials

With the legislature out of session, now is the perfect time to invite your elected officials to tour your campus and see the good work you are doing. They are working at their district offices and want to connect with their constituents. By engaging your legislators, they become stronger community college advocates.

We encourage you to take advantage of their time at the district office. Here are a few tips:

- **Find your legislator!** [Click here](#) to locate their office and contact information.
- **The League is your resource!** Contact us for a draft invitation letter or guidance on scheduling a meeting.
- **Extend the invitation!** Invite legislators to attend college events, activities, or simply tour the campus.
- **Highlight student success!** Share student achievements and/or exemplary programs.

For further assistance, contact Lizette Navarette at [lizette@ccleague.org](mailto:lizette@ccleague.org) or Ryan McElhinney at [ryan@ccleague.org](mailto:ryan@ccleague.org).

## New Chair of the League's Advisory Committee on Legislation



**Bernie Rhinerson**  
*Trustee*  
*San Diego CCD*

The League is excited to announce that in addition to welcoming several new members to the Advisory Committee on Legislation (ACL), Trustee Bernie Rhinerson has accepted the position as Chair. Bernie has served as a member of the ACL since 2013. In 2012 he was elected to the Board of Trustees for San Diego Community College District. Prior to that, he had a successful career in both K-12 education and the private sector.

The ACL is a key part of the League's legislative program. It is composed of key stakeholders throughout the system, including CEOs, trustees and students. The committee provides important feedback on how legislation will affect the day-to-day instruction and operations at colleges. This analysis and feedback is then taken to our boards to better inform their decisions.

The Government Relations staff thanks outgoing Chair Francisco Rodriguez, Chancellor of the Los Angeles Community College District, and we are fortunate he will continue to serve on the committee. To learn more about the ACL or to see the 2014-15 membership, please visit: [www.ccleague.org/acl](http://www.ccleague.org/acl).

## Happenings at the League

On Thursday, August 14th, the League Government Relations staff participated in the convocation of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District. Held at Las Positas College, it brought together hundreds of faculty, administrators and classified employees to discuss the college's

priorities for the year. League staff provided a presentation illustrating how different legislative and budget issues affect community colleges; staff also used this opportunity to build new local relationships.

It was an educational experience for staff members of the League as well. “We valued speaking at the convocation,” said Lizette Navarette, Legislative Advocate for the League. “It truly helps put what we do in Sacramento into context.”

Legislative schedule permitting, the League Government Relations staff is delighted to provide a legislative or budget update at district or college events. For inquiries, please call (916) 444-8641, or you may also contact Ryan or Lizette directly at [ryan@ccleague.org](mailto:ryan@ccleague.org) or [lizette@ccleague.org](mailto:lizette@ccleague.org).

## **CTE Enhancement Fund Supports Workforce Innovation**

The 2014-15 budget signed by Governor Brown “provided on a one-time basis to create greater incentive for California Community Colleges to develop, enhance, retool, and expand quality career technical education offerings that build upon existing community college regional capacity to respond to regional labor market needs.” These CTE Enhancement Funds “may be used for equipment, curriculum development, professional development, and other related costs necessary to develop, enhance, retool, and expand quality career technical education offerings.” Based upon a formula, 60% will be reserved for local colleges, and 40% will be reserved for Regional Consortia to incentivize coordinated multi-college applications. The colleges, districts and regions are well positioned to use these funds to strengthen, enhance, retool, and expand quality CTE programs.

### **CTE Enhancement Fund Selection Criteria:**

Competitive grants are being awarded as part of the Doing What Matters for Jobs and Economy (DWM) framework. The DWM seven CTE Regional Consortia have been tasked by budget language to certify applications that are eligible for cost reimbursement due to closing a regional workforce gap. Accordingly, applications must include CTE programming that *meet the following criteria*:

1. Be for occupations and sectors that are demonstrated to be in-demand in the regional labor market;
  2. Be for occupations for which regional production of employees is insufficient to meet labor market demand; and
  3. Demonstrate regional alignment of program and curricula.
- Priority for funding shall go to programs that *meet all the above and that meet one or more of the following criteria*:
    - Are in priority sectors identified by the region.
    - Are in emerging sectors identified by the region.
    - Are articulated with K-12 or four-year institutions.
  - Meet the industry match requirement.
  - Strong applications will target activities that “move the needle” in the region’s new and emergent sectors.

For more information, please visit [www.doingwhatmatters.cccco.edu](http://www.doingwhatmatters.cccco.edu).

## Must Read

By Rita Mize, Director of State Policy & Research

### ***Redefining Full-Time in College: Evidence on 15-Credit Strategies***

Serena Klempin. Community College Research Center, September 2014.

This report is particularly timely for California community colleges in implementing the findings of the Student Success Task Force (SSTF) including Recommendation 3.3 “Provide students the opportunity to consider attending full-time.” This has become an important issue both in California and nationally as financial aid is often tied to 12 units per semester which often leads students (and institutions) to define 12 units as full-time when 15 units per semester are required for students to receive their associate’s or bachelor’s degree within four or eight semesters, respectively.

To increase rates of on-time completion, a number of states and higher education advocacy groups advocate defining full-time as 15 credits, and a growing number of institutions are implementing policies based on such a definition.

This report provides an overview of three distinct types of 15-credit strategies being used nationally – financial incentives (such as tying financial aid to 15 units instead of 12); social marketing (advertising to raise awareness of the importance of taking 15 units per semester to graduate on time); and structural reforms (such as establishing 15 units as the normal full-time course load.) It reviews the research evidence on the effectiveness of each and outlines their potential challenges and unintended consequences. The report also identifies three types of additional policies that are designed to promote higher intensity enrollment without focusing exclusively on 15 units – tuition policies (such as charging a flat rate rather than by unit), financial aid policies, and structural policies (such as enrollment in consecutive semesters without breaks). It concludes by identifying issues that should be considered by colleges and states wishing to implement 15-credit strategies.

**Read the full report at:** [http://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/publications/redefining-full-time-in-college.html?utm\\_source=sept+2014+e-alert&utm\\_campaign=UA-2832117-7&utm\\_medium=email](http://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/publications/redefining-full-time-in-college.html?utm_source=sept+2014+e-alert&utm_campaign=UA-2832117-7&utm_medium=email)

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

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