



Office of Government Relations

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

November 2015 Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

Nov. 5-7 – Academic
Senate of California
Community Colleges Fall
Plenary Session
Irvine, CA

Nov. 16-17 – Board of
Governors Meeting
Mt. San Antonio College

Nov. 19 – Consultation
Council
Burlingame, CA

Nov. 19-21 – Community
College League of
California Annual
Convention
Burlingame, CA

Jan. 31- Feb. 1 –
Community College
League of California
Legislative Conference
Sacramento, CA

Follow tracked bills at:
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Have an event you would
like to highlight? Send
event info to:
lizette@ccleague.org.

League Boards Take Action on Accreditation Report

In late August, the Chancellor's Office released a report from its task force on the state of accreditation in California's community colleges. The report outlines three key recommendations "to address chronic issues, to promote confidence in and respect for the accreditation process, and to position the regional accreditor for the future development of California's Community Colleges," and was written by a task force composed of representatives from stakeholder organizations within the system.

Both the Trustee and CEO Boards of the Community College League of California have unanimously endorsed the report with the following motions.

At its meeting on September 11 & 12, 2015, the California Community College Trustees (CCCT) Board unanimously adopted the following motion:

"...to endorse the report of the Chancellor's Task Force on Accreditation...and noted that the board endorses the report and its focus on continuing a statewide dialogue. The board's priority is to have an accreditation process that functions to support student success and is consistent with the standards of four-year universities."

At its meeting on October 23, 2015, the Chief Executive Officers of the California Community Colleges (CEOCCC) Board unanimously adopted the following motion:

"Move to endorse and support the Task Force report to explore any and all options, including a recasting of the current accrediting agency, to result in an improvement of the accrediting process. This body [CEOCCC Board] and the CEOs we represent commit to supporting the process to seek this new model of accreditation."

Governor's Final Actions

In 2015, 2,350 legislative measures were introduced by the Legislature, and 941 bills were approved by the Legislature. Of those measures, Governor Jerry Brown signed a total of 808 into law and vetoed 133. This marked the end of the first year of a two-year legislative session;

therefore, all bills that failed to pass a deadline are two-year bills and could return next year. The following is a snapshot of the Governor's actions on League-tracked bills.

Position	Signed by Governor	Vetoed by Governor
Support	9	4
Support if Amended	0	1
Watch	8	1
Oppose/Concern	0	2
Total	17	8

Priority Bills Signed By the Governor

AB 288 (Holden) College and Career Pathways Act

AB 288 provides a voluntary framework (for new or expanded programs) to offer dual enrollment for CTE, transfer, improving graduation rates, or college and career readiness. Specifically, AB 288 reduces fiscal penalties and policy barriers for:

- Courses taught at colleges: 1) it allows CCCs to assign priority registration; 2) allows for a maximum of 15 units per term if part of a program awarding both a diploma and an associate's degree; and 3) prohibits fees for high school students.
- Courses taught at the high school: 1) it ensures college courses offered during the regular school day are limited to high school students; and 2) provides that colleges can receive apportionment for high school enrollees.

AB 653 (Levine) Community College Contracting Practices

This measure will permit community colleges to make purchases of materials, equipment, or services through existing California State University or University of California contracts (piggyback). Additionally it permits a community college district to secure contract bids by posting its notice either on the internet or via an electronic portal.

AB 798 (Bonilla) College Textbook Affordability Act

This measure lowers textbook expenses for students by creating incentives for campuses to use Open Educational Resources. Specifically,

- It creates the Open Educational Resources Adoption Incentive Fund (AIF) to provide incentives for the adoption of open educational resources (OER).
- In order to qualify for funds, it requires the local academic senate to to:
 1. adopt a local campus resolution, and
 2. develop a plan to support faculty adoption of OER.
- Campuses will be eligible for an initial AIF grant, and for up to three years, receive a grant for meeting established performance benchmarks.

AB 767 (Santiago) Community Colleges Emergency Preparedness Standards

This measure requires that the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) review and update its emergency preparedness standards in consultation with the Office of Emergency Services by January 1, 2017. It requires the CCCCCO to consider including an active shooter response plan to its existing emergency preparedness standards and guidelines.

SB 186 (Jackson) College Districts: Removal, Suspension, or Expulsion

This measure will authorize, but not mandate, the governing boards to remove, suspend, or expel a student for sexual assault or sexual exploitation, regardless of the victim's affiliation with the college, even if the offense is not related to college activity or attendance. This measure expands the definition of "good cause" for purposes of suspension or expulsion. Specifically it:

- Adds the offenses of sexual assault or sexual battery;
- Clarifies that the offenses must occur while the individual is enrolled as a student;
- Clarifies the continuing applicability of federal law.

AB 963 (Bonilla) Teacher's Retirement Law

Two years ago, the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) declared that those in certain positions - including those in community colleges - were not performing creditable service and were, therefore, ineligible for the retirement system. This measure will permit current members in CalSTRS to be "grandfathered" into the system, removing concerns that they may be expelled from their retirement system in the future. The legislation also clarifies the Education Code regarding placement of educational administrators in either CalSTRS or CalPERS. Finally, the legislation would consider positions that perform CalSTRS creditable service for a certain portion of their time as full CalSTRS members.

PPIC Report Predicts California to Face 1.1 Million Graduates Shortfall

Earlier this month, the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC), a nonpartisan think tank, released a report stating that California will fall about 1.1 million college graduates short of economic demand by 2030, if current trends persist. The report, titled *Will California Run Out of College Graduates?*, is authored by Hans Johnson, PPIC senior fellow, with coauthors are Marisol Cuellar Mejia and PPIC research fellow Sarah Bohn, both PPIC research associates.

The report and the corresponding event discussing the report drew much attention from state leadership, education and workforce communities. Some found the report's findings shocking, while others have been stunned by the responses.

The report projects that 38 percent of all jobs in California will require at least a bachelor's degree in 2030. But only about 33 percent of workers will have these degrees—a small increase since 2013, when 32 percent of California workers had them. While the state is expected to experience increases in the share of college graduates, these improvements will not compensate for the large numbers of highly educated baby boomers retiring from the labor force.

At the event, Hans Johnson stated that "higher education is the last big economic development opportunity California has." The PPIC report updates and expands earlier PPIC work on the

workforce skills gap. Its new projections account for the way the state economy and the educational attainment of Californians changed during the Great Recession and the subsequent recovery.

The report finds that the most promising approach to closing the workforce skills gap is to concentrate on improving the educational attainment of California residents. It outlines four key strategies for the state and its colleges and universities to pursue. The four recommendations are: 1) increase access; 2) improve completion and time to degree; 3) expand transfer degrees; 4) be smart about aid. Two recommendations are of particular interest:

Expand transfers degrees. Improving transfer pathways from community colleges to four-year institutions is essential since California relies heavily on its two-year institutions. The Associate Degree for Transfer was highlighted as a model that should be expanded. Expanding the program to include more campuses, such as the nine University of California undergraduate campuses, may lead to increases in the number of students who transfer from community colleges and earn bachelor's degrees.

Be smart about aid. Grant and aid programs mean that most low-income and even some middle-income students do not have to pay tuition at the state's public colleges and universities. But other educational costs are not included and student debt has been rising, raising questions about whether state Cal Grants should cover more than tuition. The state should also consider increasing the size of Cal Grants to students attending private colleges with good graduation rates and low loan-default rates.

During the event, Chancellor Tim White of the California State University provided an eye-opening realization, that we are "...facing two droughts in California – one is water and the second is in baccalaureate degree graduates."

CEO Changes

With this edition of the Government Relations Newsletter, League staff are returning to an earlier practice of noting the movement of CEOs between colleges or toward retirement. The "CEO Changes" section will be included at the end of each monthly Government Relations Newsletter.

- Lori Gaskin, superintendent/president of Santa Barbara City College since 2012, has announced that she will retire in June 2016.
- Dena Maloney, superintendent/president of West Kern CCD since 2012, will become the new superintendent/president of El Camino CCD in February 2016. She replaces Tom Fallo who has held that position since 1995.
- Julianna Barnes, vice president for student services at San Diego Mesa College, has been appointed president of Cuyamaca College effective immediately.

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