



Office of Government Relations

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

December 2014 Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

Legislature adjourned for fall recess – returns December 3rd.

ACCCA/ACBO Proposed Budget Workshop
January 14, 2015
Sheraton Grand,
Sacramento

Effective Trusteeship & Board Chair Workshop
January 23-25, 2015
Sheraton Grand,
Sacramento

Legislative Conference
January 25-26, 2015
Sheraton Grand,
Sacramento

CCCSFAAA Annual Conference
Feb 17-19, 2015
Hyatt Regency Hotel & Spa
Monterey, CA

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

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

League Identifies Legislative Priorities



Restoring Three-Year Stability:

Sit back and hold tight – we are about to take you on a roller coaster ride – the community college budget process. Each year, over a third of the academic year is spent planning and budgeting around an ever-changing funding amount. In stable budgetary

environments, the task of enrollment management and funding the support services desperately needed for community college students is challenging enough, but, in California, with unstable budget allocations, planning for the long term best interests of students is nearly impossible. Without mandatory enrollment or college application deadlines, colleges have few tools to gauge or recapture enrollment on a yearly cycle. What colleges really need is a stable budgetary framework and three years where there is little or no volatility in funding in which to plan for and implement programs for long-term student success. More importantly, with the proposed growth funding formula, there is greater uncertainty in how much growth a college can capture from year to year. Therefore, restoring three-year stability funding via a trailer bill could ameliorate potential uncertainties. In 2015, the League will be sponsoring legislation to restore three-year stability for all districts.

Reform Concurrent Enrollment to Better Serve Students:

It's no secret that one of the greatest barriers to college completion is students' need for remedial education. What is also known is that concurrent enrollment is a proven model to reduce the need for remediation and prepare students to enter college with the skills needed to complete in a timely manner. It's a model that can work for any student, even those who may have struggled academically or who may have had limited confidence in their ability to pursue a degree or credential. Concurrent enrollment continues to be a key priority for many colleges and for our CEO and Trustee boards. The League has identified eight key policy changes that are needed to improve

concurrent enrollment. Many of these policy items were included in the CCCC-sponsored legislation, AB 1451 (Holden), which was held in Senate Appropriations in 2014. On November 17, the Board of Governors agreed to sponsor legislation relating to concurrent enrollment. The League will continue to work with the Chancellor's Office to ensure that California colleges are given the opportunity to improve career pathways and address remediation through concurrent enrollment. The League will support the passage of this bill by utilizing our key strengths to publicize and alert local colleges to the need for their support as the bill progresses through the legislature. We know it works and students deserve access to this proven model.

If you have questions about the League's policy priorities or would like to become more involved in advocating for these policies, please contact Lizette Navarette at lizette@cleague.org or Ryan McElhinney at ryan@cleague.org.

State Policies Can Help Colleges Address the "Summer Melt"

The Los Angeles Times recently published an article highlighting a key issue that needs to be on the top of our agenda. In "Advisors work to freeze 'summer melt,' get students to college," LA Times education writer Larry Gordon reports on the "summer melt," the phenomenon of recent high school graduates who apply and are accepted, but fail to show up for classes when the fall semester arrives. Gordon writes:

"Researchers focusing on summer melt estimate that between 10% and 30% of students from some urban high schools who register for colleges wind up not starting fall classes at those campuses. That occurs even though many are headed to low-tuition community colleges."

We should continue to be proud of the fact that our community colleges welcome people at all stages of life, although the data routinely inform us that the longer students wait after high school to go to college, the less likely they ever will. And, even if they do eventually enroll, they are much less likely than their "straight from high school" peers to complete a college degree.

State policies can be reformed to work in favor of students and ensure that colleges can do more to prevent the "summer melt". Two key policies that the League supports are concurrent enrollment and increasing Cal Grants. First, concurrent enrollment is a proven method for decreasing remediation rates, and for building high school students' confidence and comfort in the college environment. Unfortunately, existing policy barriers make concurrent enrollment a woefully underutilized practice. We believe this must change. Second, with 2/3 of all California higher education students enrolled in a community college yet only receiving 6% of all money, Cal Grants need to be reformed to better serve community colleges students. Cal Grants are essential to ensuring students can complete in a timely manner. Financial uncertainty should not be the reason so many students forego college attendance.

Under the leadership of the Board of Governors and local college leaders, and with the support of the Legislature and Governor Brown, we are making remarkable progress in addressing student success and equity in our colleges. However, we can't just focus on the students who attend our campuses, but also must doggedly ensure that we remove the barriers that keep students, particularly low-income and first-generation, from enrolling and attending our colleges in the first place.

Speaker Toni Atkins Names Assembly Floor Leadership

Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins, D – San Diego, announced on Wednesday November 26 the members who will serve as the Assembly Floor Team.

- Speaker pro Tempore Kevin Mullin, D – South San Francisco
- Assistant Speaker pro Tempore David Chiu, D – San Francisco
- Majority Floor Leader Chris Holden, D - Pasadena
- Assistant Majority Floor Leader Cristina Garcia, D – Bell Gardens
- Majority Whip Miguel Santiago, D – Los Angeles
- Assistant Majority Whip Evan Low, D – Campbell
- Assistant Majority Whip Jim Cooper, D – Elk Grove

The new leadership includes four freshmen members. Speaker Atkins is expected to announce the chairs of the 30 Assembly standing committees in the first week of December.

Your Voice is Needed at Annual Legislative Conference

The League's Annual Legislative Conference in Sacramento on January 25-26, 2015 provides a unique opportunity to connect with other advocates and learn the latest news on the budget for higher education in California. Attendees will also learn about new members of legislative committees, legislative proposals affecting colleges and student learning, and advocacy strategies for the current legislative year.

This year, Dr. Manuel Pastor, Professor of Sociology and American Studies & Ethnicity at the University of Southern California, will open the Legislative Conference with a provoking and inspiring conversation about the changing demographics of our state and the direct impacts on higher education.

Join your community college colleagues in the launch of this exciting legislative year as we advocate for community colleges.

Register today at: www.ccleague.org/legconf/.

President Napolitano and Community College CEO Address Transfer Pathways



“The University of California would not be UC without the community colleges”, emphasized University of California President Janet Napolitano during her keynote at the Community College League of California's annual convention in Rancho Mirage. This is an important point since one in three University of California students is a community college transfer, while 93 percent continue on to their second year with 86 percent graduate in four years.

In her speech, Napolitano stressed that a key function of the state's community colleges is to provide a path to the four-year campuses of the University of California. This key point continued

on Monday, November 24 at Sacramento City College during a dedicated conversation with community college CEOs about ways to improve transfer collaboration. Specifically, President Napolitano was interested in addressing three key questions: 1) How does UC reach students from regions with low transfer rates? 2) How can UC illustrate that there is financial aid available? and 3) How can UC better support transfer students?

About a dozen presidents and chancellors shared their ideas and proven practices to improve transfer rates and completion. These included obtaining UC's support on concurrent enrollment legislation, involving UC in the Associate Degree for Transfer initiative or improving the Transfer Admission Guarantee program, and using online workshops to engage more students in the transfer process, to name a few. Chancellors and presidents also requested more information and understanding of the UC tuition increase plan, citing the value of having accurate information and clear lines of communication. Overall, the key conclusion was the importance of the three higher education segments to advocate in a united front for a greater investment from the State.

Must Read

By Rita Mize, Director of State Policy & Research

Making College Possible for Low-Income Students: Grant and Scholarship Aid in California.

Hans Johnson, with Kevin Cook and Marisol Cuellar-Mejia. Public Policy Institute of California. October 2014.

Upon examining the role of grant and scholarship aid in California, Johnson found the following:

- For many low-income students, college would be impossible without grant and scholarship aid to help offset tuition increases.
- Students who receive grants and scholarships are more likely to earn a bachelor's degree than students with similar characteristics, even after controlling for high school GPA and family income.
- Performance-based grants do not seem to have greater effects than other types of grants, largely because students already must meet institutional academic requirements to remain enrolled in college.
- An important role of aid is to induce students to attend four-year colleges (where they are more likely to earn a degree) rather than a community college.

The author recommends that legislators and higher education policy makers undertake a number of steps to make college more affordable and accessible for low-income students. These include:

- Adopt policies that help more students complete financial aid forms, especially the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Direct any additional funding (with a focus on increasing the size of grants so they keep pace with inflation) toward lower-income students.
- Consider whether additional institutions should be deemed ineligible for state and federal grants due to low graduation rates and high student loan default rates. (*Note that community colleges have generally opposed the use of loan default rates since they disadvantage ccs due to the relatively few students who take loans.*)
- Ensure that grant and scholarship aid does not exacerbate higher education cost inflation by increasing financial assistance without raising net prices. One way to accomplish this would

be to require that colleges keep net prices below a certain amount for Cal Grant and Pell Grant recipients.

- Policymakers should realize that attaching additional performance requirements to grant eligibility is not likely to improve student outcomes.

Read the full report at: <http://ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=1117>

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

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