

# 2022-23 POLICY AGENDA

From the onset of the pandemic, the League has focused on community colleges as a catalyst for an equitable recovery where students are supported and able to succeed in a timely manner. Our equity-minded recovery is aligned with Governor Newsom's Roadmap for California's Community Colleges which seeks to advance access, affordability, equity, and success for all students and ties future ongoing funds to such goals as: increasing the percentage of students earning degrees and certificates; increasing transfers to the UC and CSU; decreasing the median units over 60 needed for completion; establishing credit for prior learning; and improving graduation, transfer, and time-to-completion rates for underrepresented students, Pell recipients, and students with disabilities. Our colleges will need thoughtful and strategic investments to meet these important goals.



## A historic investment in California's community colleges

Our 116 colleges and 73 districts are grateful to the Governor and Legislature for their investments in our campuses and students, as reflected in the 2022-23 budget agreement.

We particularly note the \$600 million increase to the base apportionment to help our districts make the transition to the Student Centered Funding Formula (SCFF). This was the centerpiece of the League's budget advocacy efforts to allow districts greater stability and predictability in their funding.

We also commend the augmented 6.56 percent COLA (\$493 million) that is critical during these inflationary times. Finally, we celebrate the agreement to implement the Cal Grant Equity Framework to address the unmet financial needs of our students. Despite comprising two-thirds of the California higher education population, community college students receive only six percent of Cal Grant resources. The proposed framework will help students address the total cost of attendance, which currently remains elusive for so many.



## Community colleges fiscal needs still significant

Based on available data and continuing conversations with our district and campus leaders, we believe an additional unallocated increase of at least \$400 million is needed as colleges restore previous enrollment levels and fund simultaneous online and in-person academic programs.



## Local challenges continue

We note a series of both challenges and opportunities facing our colleges moving forward, including, but not limited to: rising pension obligations and health care, cyber-attacks, student basic needs, and strategic investments in workforce education. All of these require examination and consideration of resources. While experts are predicting a slowing of economic growth, California's community colleges remain the best short- and long-term investment for an equitable and dynamic society.