



in the Media

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Citrus College Joins in AB 288 Signing Celebration

By Marilyn Grinsdale

GLENDORA, Calif. –California community college leaders from Southern California joined with Assemblymember Chris Holden (D-Pasadena) and representatives from the California Community Colleges Chancellors Office at Pasadena City College on November 4, 2015, to celebrate the signing of AB 288 by Governor Brown.

AB 288 will allow partnerships between high schools and community colleges to make it possible for a broader range of students to take college-level courses at their high schools or on college campuses. These partnerships are often referred to as concurrent or dual enrollment. AB 288, which was signed by the Governor last month, will take effect January 1, 2016.

Speaking to a large crowd that included community college trustees, college chancellors and superintendent/presidents, students, and staff, as well as high school students from Monrovia Unified School District, Assemblymember Holden expressed his appreciation to everyone in the audience for their contributions to the passage of AB 288.

Representatives from Citrus College, Board Member Susan M. Keith and Superintendent/President Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D, were recognized by Assemblymember Holden from the podium for their effective advocacy and support of AB 288. Board Member Keith also provided remarks during the program, highlighting the some of the many benefits of concurrent enrollment programs for students and their families.

“Citrus College is very proud of our efforts on behalf of AB 288,” said Superintendent/President Perri. “As a College of Completion, we are committed to working with our K-12 education partners to increase the numbers of students who are prepared for college and successfully complete their college goals.”

Citrus College was an early leader in creating concurrent enrollment partnerships, which prior to the passage of AB 288, have been costly and complex to set up and administer. In 2009, the college partnered with the Duarte Unified School District to establish an Early College pilot program, which has proven to be very successful. Under the model, Citrus College courses are taught on the campus of Duarte High School. Duarte students who are enrolled in Early College can graduate with both high school and college credit, saving them time and money, and giving them a good foundation for future academic success. Citrus College has since expanded the program to include Monrovia High School and Gladstone High School in Azusa. The college is working to create similar programs in Claremont and Glendora.

California Community Colleges Chancellor Brice W. Harris has been an ardent supporter of AB 288, since the bill was introduced in February. In a statement released November 4, 2015, he commented that the new partnerships will expand opportunities for students who may not already be college

bound or who are underrepresented in higher education, with the goal of developing seamless pathways from high school to community college for career technical education or transfer preparation.

“Concurrent enrollment has been shown to be a viable strategy for improving high school students’ transition to college,” said Citrus College Board President Joanne Montgomery. “We are excited about the possibility of expanding our successful dual enrollment programs to reach even more students in our district, thanks to the passage of AB 288.”