



California Community Colleges

System Strategic Plan

PREPARING THE FOUNDATION FOR CALIFORNIA'S FUTURE

2013 UPDATE

Chancellor's Office
California Community Colleges
Sacramento, California



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I. INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

The *System Strategic Plan for the California Community Colleges* provides a comprehensive road map for restoring student access and improving student success. The Plan addresses the major demographic, economic and educational challenges that California will face over the coming decades. It presents clear system goals, specific strategies and implementation measures, as well as methods for assessing implementation and ensuring its ongoing renewal. Originally developed through consultation with the College's educational leaders and external partners, and revised by the Board of Governors in 2013, this Plan builds on the planning and work done by the individual Colleges and Districts, and provides a framework for all constituencies to work together.

PLAN FRAMEWORK

As shown in Figure 1 on the following page, the Plan includes five elements:

- **Vision.** The preferred future for the system.
- **Planning Principles.** The foundational assumptions that recognize the benefits and limits of strategic planning for a diverse “system” of autonomous colleges and districts.
- **Values.** Qualities and principles that will guide implementation of the plan.
- **Missions.** Core focus areas of the Colleges.
- **Strategic Goals.** Directions for change. The strategies under each Strategic Goal present the specific initiatives that will implement the plan.

PARTICIPATORY AND BILATERAL GOVERNANCE

California's Education Code specifies the roles and responsibilities for governance of California's Community Colleges. In 1988, AB 1725 established the current structure for the Colleges, including the bilateral governance structure and the role of students, faculty, classified staff and administrators in the governance process. The *System Strategic Plan* presents areas of collaboration and coordination between the local governance structures, the statewide governance bodies, and the system's partners—while maintaining all existing bilateral and participating governance roles.

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

The Strategic Plan was developed with input from a wide range of internal constituencies of the California Community College system, as well as external stakeholders and partners including other segments of education, businesses and State agencies. A Strategic Plan Steering Committee, with representation from these stakeholder groups, developed recommendations for review by the California Community Colleges Board of Governors.

The original planning process was initiated with ten Regional Planning Meetings held throughout the state supplemented with additional input from other interested parties. The Strategic Plan, originally adopted in 2006, provided guidance to the Chancellor's Office. In the spring of 2013 the Board of Governors revisited the original 2006 plan to revise and update the document expeditiously. As part of its annual Board retreat it updated the Plan and then asked the Consultation Council to review the revisions and provide feedback prior to their final approval.

The next chapter in statewide strategic planning is taking place in the context of the recommendations of the Student Success Task Force (SSTF).

In January 2011, the Community Colleges Board of Governors embarked on a 12-month strategic planning process to improve student success. Pursuant to Senate Bill 1143 (Chapter 409, Statutes of 2010), the Board of Governors created the Student Success Task Force composed of a diverse group of community college leaders, faculty, students, researchers, staff, and external stakeholders. It worked for seven months to identify best practices for promoting student success and to develop statewide strategies to take these approaches to scale while ensuring that educational opportunity for historically underrepresented students would not just be maintained, but enhanced.

Each month, from January through June 2011, the SSTF met to examine topics critical to the success of students, ranging from college readiness and assessment to student services, from basic skills Instruction to performance-based funding. The SSTF turned to state and national experts for the latest



VISION

California's Community Colleges provide upward social and economic mobility through a commitment to access and student success by delivery of high quality, affordable and comprehensive higher education.

Figure 1
STRATEGIC PLAN FRAMEWORK

Planning Principles	Values	Missions
Access to Quality Higher Education	All people have the opportunity to reach their full educational potential.	<u>Core Missions</u>
California's Social, Civic and Economic Development	The Colleges embrace diversity in all its forms.	Transfer Education
Shared Goals, Ideas and Resources	The Colleges strive for innovation and creativity.	Basic Skills and English Language Proficiency
Existing Governance Processes	All people have a right to access quality higher education.	Economic and Workforce Development
Regional and Local Circumstances	All people have access to lifelong learning.	Associate Degrees and Certificates
A Systems Approach to Management of Higher Education in California	An educated citizenry is the basis for democracy.	<u>Other Missions</u>
		Lifelong Learning

Figure 1 (Continued)

STRATEGIC PLAN FRAMEWORK

Strategic Goals	Strategies
<p>A. College Awareness and Access Increase awareness of college as a viable option and enhance access to higher education for growing populations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A1. Early Awareness of College as a Viable OptionA2. Removing Barriers to Access and Student SuccessA3. Innovative Programs and Outreach for Growing PopulationsA4. Multiple Delivery MethodsA5. Institutional Capacity for Diversity
<p>B. Student Success and Readiness Promote college readiness and provide the programs and services to enable all students to achieve their educational and career goals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">B1. Basic Skills as a Foundation for Student SuccessB2. Assessment and PlacementB3. Articulation with K-12B4. Intersegmental TransferB5. Teaching and Learning EffectivenessB6. Degrees and CertificatesB7. Innovative Practices in Workforce EducationB8. Provide Students with Increased Direction and Expectations
<p>C. Partnerships for Economic and Workforce Development Strengthen the Colleges' capacity to respond to current and emerging labor market needs and to prepare students to compete in a global economy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">C1. Coordination of Statewide Workforce Programs and PoliciesC2. Career PathwaysC3. Curriculum and Program Development and Approval Process ImprovementsC4. Regional Collaboration Through Multi-Agency NetworksC5. Defining Long-Range Economic and Workforce TrendsC6. Funding and Pay Equity
<p>D. System Effectiveness Improve system effectiveness through communication and coordination, regulatory reform, and performance measurement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">D1. Accountability ReportingD2. Comprehensive Measures of SuccessD3. Analytical Capacity for Measuring SuccessD4. System Office Roles and FunctionsD5. Selective Regulatory ReformD6. Resource SharingD7. Leadership and Professional DevelopmentD8. External RelationsD9. Coalition for Higher EducationD10. AccreditationD11. Strategic Collaboration
<p>E. Resource Development Provide enhanced resources and allocation methods to ensure high quality education for all.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">E1. Alignment of Budget Priorities with System Strategic PlanE2. Resource DiversificationE3. Funding for Increased Access and Student SuccessE4. Resource OptimizationE5. Fee Policy Review



research-based findings and had frank discussions about what works to help students achieve their educational objectives.

Beginning in July 2011, the SSTF spent three months forming the recommendations contained in its report. Recommendations were chosen based on their ability to be actionable by state policymakers and college leaders and to make a significant impact on student success, as defined by the outcome and progression metrics adopted by the SSTF.

To foster public input, during October and November 2011, the Task Force held four public town hall meetings, made presentations to numerous community colleges stakeholder groups, and hosted a lively online dialogue.

The Board of Governors adopted the SSTF Report on January, 2012. Excerpts from the SSTF Report have been inserted into the 2013 Strategic Plan revision. A complete copy of the SSTF Report is available at:

http://www.californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/Portals/0/Executive/StudentSuccessTaskForce/SSTF_Final_Report_1-17-12_Print.pdf.

II. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The California Community Colleges face four major challenges that will be addressed through this Strategic Plan and the updates that will follow:

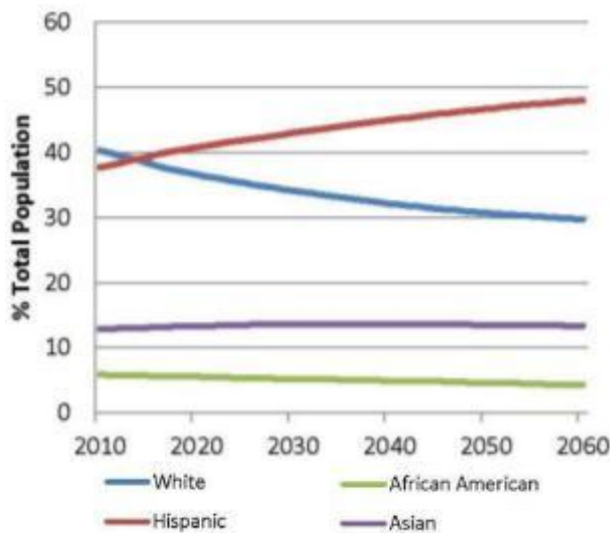
- Demographic Change: A New California
- Educational Challenges
- Aligning State Educational Policies
- Capacity for Change

DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE: A NEW CALIFORNIA

California is home to a diverse population. By 2025, the state’s multicultural character will expand dramatically, as the state adds between 7 and 11 million residents increasing the state’s population of 37 million to almost 48 million will change California:

Latino and Asian Growth. The Latino population will grow dramatically. As shown in Figures 2 and 3, Latinos are the State’s largest ethnic group, the majority population in public schools by 2013, and the overall majority by 2040. The Asian population will grow from its current level of 13 percent in 2010 to 22 percent in 2040. Latino population growth will be greatest in Southern California, while Asian population growth will be greatest in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Figure 2
CALIFORNIA DEMOGRAPHIC PROJECTIONS



Source: California Department of Finance

Figure 3
IMMIGRANTS’ COUNTRY OF BIRTH

Country of Origin	Number of Immigrants
Mexico	4,288,908
Philippines	806,298
China	724,758
Vietnam	473,382
El Salvador	415,518
India	334,762
Korea	334,389
Guatemala	255,405
Iran	193,928
Canada	130,246

Source: 2010 Census

Older Age Profile. Due to increasing longevity and the size of the baby boom generation, by 2030 the number of seniors will double—one in every six Californians will be 65 or older and 22 percent of California’s adults will be age 60 or older. The distribution of older Californians will also vary by region.

Inland Growth. The population of the inland parts of the state will increase because there is available land for growth. Coastal areas will grow more slowly. According to the Public Policy Institute of California, the highest rates of growth will occur in the San Joaquin Valley, the Inland Empire (Riverside and San Bernardino counties), and in the Sacramento metropolitan area.

California’s Newcomers. Newcomers to California come from over 60 countries and represent a wide range of economic and educational backgrounds. Immigrants from Asia, Canada and Europe tend to have relatively high levels of education and income. Southeast Asian immigrants differ from this general pattern, having among the lowest educational attainment and income among California’s immigrant groups. Immigrants from Mexico and Central America, which contribute the greatest number of newcomers,

also have lower educational attainment and incomes. The ten countries listed in Figure 3 account for approximately 74 percent of the immigrants living in California.

Unlike some states, California's newcomers have settled throughout the state. (In contrast, New York City and Chicago serve as the primary destination in their states.)

EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES

The educational levels of many recent immigrants are lower than required for economic success in most regions of California. However, as noted in a recent analysis: "The low educational attainment of Hispanic adults is not simply a result of recent immigration. U.S.-born Hispanics, particularly those of Mexican descent, have consistently lower high school and college completion rates than do African Americans, Asians, or whites."

The significance of this is explained in the report:

Educational attainment is perhaps the most important indicator of lifetime economic opportunities. Higher educational attainment is associated with lower unemployment, higher wages, higher family income, and better health. Parental education is associated with better health, enriched development, and greater educational opportunities for children....Across these measures, Hispanics fare worse than any other group.

(Public Policy Institute of California, 2003)

Educational attainment has a much greater impact on wages than it had in previous decades. With Latinos on the verge of becoming the largest single population group in the state, these patterns portray a major challenge to the sustainability of California's economic competitiveness and the promise of social mobility.

Education Preparation. California's educational challenge has many dimensions, including factors outside the effects of immigration. For example, across California's higher education system, a

significant proportion of students start their college education in need of additional basic skills education in English, math, or both. California ranks far below top-performing states in the percentage of students taking rigorous math courses. Over half of the incoming community college students need basic skills programs. Many teens and young adults leave the education system before attaining necessary skills.

According to California statistics from 2010-11, based on a ninth-grade enrollment of 461,606 students, 23 percent, or 115,687 students did not graduate from high school. The proportion of working-age adults in California without some credential of high school completion has been about 20 percent since the late 1970s.

Many people who have had problematic experiences with formal education may not have sufficient knowledge, skills, or motivation to return later to augment their educational and career skills. The challenge of providing access to people who have

become disconnected from education is real, especially among low-income students and first-generation Americans who achieved low levels of education in their home countries. Returning to school and increasing educational attainment has a much greater impact on wages than in previous decades.

Implications: Significant Increase in Need for Basic Skills Education. New Californians and their children, as well as long-time citizens with low educational attainment, will increasingly look to the Community Colleges as the gateway to educational and career opportunities. As a result, there will be a dramatic increase in the need for enhanced basic skills programs and associated academic support services.

The Colleges will need to implement a range of strategies to meet the State's growing educational needs over the next decades. California's workforce will increasingly be drawn from groups with low levels of educational attainment. While college participation and completion will increase for many groups, this growth will fall far short of the demand for college-educated workers.

“ In many ways, California’s future economy will depend on the children and grandchildren of recent immigrants. Their education will determine whether the state’s income and tax revenues will grow rapidly or slowly. All residents have an interest in providing access to higher education for all eligible students, and many will begin their higher education at California’s Community Colleges. ”

—Stephen Levy, Director
Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy

ALIGNING STATE EDUCATIONAL POLICIES

California’s five segments of education—the K-12 system, the California Community Colleges, the California State University system, the University of California, and the private/ independent college sector—have separate governing structures. Any coordinated planning is voluntary, and there are few incentives for collaboration. A policy analysis of broad-access institutions evaluated the fractured relationship between schools and colleges across the nation (*The Governance Divide: A Report on a Four-State Study on Improving College Readiness and Success*). While the analysis focused on four states other than California, the results are relevant:

Currently, K-12 and postsecondary education exist in separate worlds in the United States. Policies for each system of education are typically created in isolation from each other—even though, in contrast to the past, most students eventually move from one system to the other. Students in K-12 rarely know what to expect when they enter college, nor do they have a clear sense of how to prepare for that next step. Particularly now, in the 21st century, when more students must complete some postsecondary education to have an economically secure life, the need for improved transitions from high school to college is urgent...

The report cautions against seeking one-size-fits-all solutions, but does identify four “policy levers” that the states should evaluate in the context of state culture and history:

Alignment of Courses and Assessments. States need to make sure that what students are asked to know and do in high school is connected to postsecondary expectations—both in coursework and assessments. Currently, students in most states graduate from high school under one set of standards and face a disconnected and different set of expectations in college. Many students enter college unable to perform college-level work.

Data Systems. States must create high-quality data systems that span the K-16 continuum. K-16 data systems should identify good practices, diagnose problems, provide information about all education levels, provide students with diagnostic information to help them prepare better, assess and improve achievement and track individual students over time across levels. Without such systems, it is impossible to assess needs effectively, understand where the problems are, gain traction for changes needed and evaluate reforms.

Accountability. States need to connect their accountability systems to span both K-12 and postsecondary education. Currently, accountability systems are usually designed for either K-12 or postsecondary education without much attention to the interface between the two. Accountability systems need to better reflect the reality of students’ educational paths.

CAPACITY FOR CHANGE

The Strategic Plan will facilitate continued experimentation at the local, regional and state levels to respond to emerging needs. Some of the key institutional challenges and opportunities facing the Colleges and the System are outlined below.

Local Collaboration and Coordination. At regional planning meetings held as part of the original strategic planning process, College representatives identified opportunities for increasing the coordination between college units to better meet community, student and business needs. For example, participants suggested that partnerships between career/technical faculty and academic faculty could link career and basic skills courses. Such “career pathway” approaches effectively aid basic skills acquisition, because the skills are connected to students’ near-term goals. Additionally, the Colleges can work with industry to develop contextualized basic skills curriculum.

The career pathway concept recognizes that people frequently shift between education and work throughout their lives. A pathway approach can be the most appropriate avenue for attaining a bachelor's—or even a master's or doctoral degree—for the community college student who must work full time or nearly full time to meet family obligations. As working students' levels of educational attainment increase and their effectiveness in managing the educational/career process improves during their lives, they can achieve successes that might have seemed impossible based on standard assumptions about the necessity of continuous, full-time engagement in successful postsecondary education.

The Colleges can enhance relationships with their community partners in business/industry, labor and the non-profit sector. Colleges can respond to community and student career education expectations, while maintaining academic standards. There are several examples of multi-agency regional partnerships that can provide models of effective collaborations. For colleges that have small noncredit offerings, partnering and collaborating with local adult schools can facilitate student transitions between K-12, Adult Education and the Colleges.

Advocating for Students. This Strategic Plan focuses on issues of statewide significance and long-term impact. The Plan assesses the role of the community college system in relation to California's other education segments, state agencies and policy makers. This analysis identifies the changes with the greatest potential benefit for students—improving incentives, standards and resources of the system at the level of state policy. As noted in the *The Governance Divide*: “Changes in statewide governance policies and structures can enable deep, classroom-level effects.”

The Community Colleges can provide leadership within the state policy arena on behalf of the needs of current and future students. A clear opportunity is the high level of public support for education expressed by the public in opinion polling.

The Strategic Plan positions the Chancellor's Office to improve the visibility and policy effectiveness of the system. The Chancellor's Office can enhance the role it plays in coordinating the dialog and decision-making processes of the Board of Governors, the Consultation Council, and bilateral and participatory governance. However, the Office is currently subject to a variety of challenges that limit the advocacy role it can play on behalf of the Colleges. For example, the oversight applied to the system by other state agencies is unique within California's higher education system.

The Colleges' Role in State Government and Public Policy. In important areas, public policy regarding the Colleges is akin to that governing the K-12 system, i.e., requiring high degrees of scrutiny and control. Some laws and regulations limit the flexibility, autonomy, effectiveness and efficiency of the Colleges without clear benefit to students, the state, or due process.

Some compliance procedures also create barriers to innovation at the local level, but can be evaluated and improved without changes to the underlying law.

Resources. The challenges facing the State and the Colleges will require assessing resource needs and strategies. The overall level of need will rise dramatically with population growth, and the educational needs of the new Californians could require even higher levels of funding to support the practices and support services known to be effective for students needing basic skills.

Voter approval of Proposition 30 in November of 2012 provided some stabilization of funding for California community colleges and the probability of modest funding improvements in coming years. However, the tremendous demands on the system will continue to cause the colleges to face financial challenges in coming years.

Assessing resource needs will be especially important given current funding levels. The California Community Colleges are near the bottom nationally in per-community college student revenue. Despite recent improvements, each full-time student still receives substantially less than the national average for community colleges.

The challenge of addressing the needs of California's fastest growing student groups—who will become the majority of the state's workforce—will involve a large increase in the sheer volume of education and in experimentation with new approaches.

Providing leadership in meeting California's educational and workforce needs is also a significant opportunity. The Colleges have a deep reservoir of effective practices and program models that can be adapted and institutionalized to meet the growing needs. This, combined with a shared vision and effective advocacy, can mean expanded opportunity and achievement for students, the Colleges and the State.

As explained in the SSTF Report: “The California Community Colleges have a strong record of benefiting our students and the communities we serve:

- The California Community Colleges are the state’s largest workforce provider, offering associate degrees and short-term job training certificates in more than 175 different fields.
- The California Community Colleges train 70 percent of California nurses.
- The California Community Colleges train 80 percent of firefighters, law enforcement personnel, and emergency medical technicians.
- Twenty-eight percent of University of California graduates and 55 percent of California State University graduates transfer from a community college.
- Students who earn a California Community College degree or certificate nearly double their earnings within three years.”

The California Community Colleges can and should take pride in these positive impacts. For the students who successfully navigate our colleges, we provide tremendous opportunity for self-improvement and economic benefit.

However, there is another set of statistics that are a cause of concern. These figures relate to the large numbers of our students who never make it to the finish line:

- Only 53.6 percent of our degree-seeking students ever achieve a certificate, degree, or transfer preparation. For African-American and Latino students, the rate is much lower (42 percent and 43 percent, respectively).
- Of the students who enter our colleges at one level below transfer-level in math, only 46.2 percent ever achieve a certificate, degree, or transfer preparation. Of those students entering four levels below, only 25.5 percent ever achieve those outcomes.
- Of our students who seek to transfer to a four-year institution, only 41 percent are successful. For African Americans, only 34 percent succeed. For Latinos, the figure is 31 percent.”



III. GUIDING FRAMEWORK

This Strategic Plan brings all of the issues and opportunities facing the Colleges into a cohesive view, recognizing the major changes that have occurred during the past 40 years and building on the planning and work the individual colleges have done over the past decades. In developing the Plan, the Steering Committee first laid the foundation—the essential guiding elements of the framework (see Figure 1, Strategic Plan Framework, on page 2):

- Planning Principles
- Values
- Missions
- Vision

Those elements led directly to the strategic goals and strategies outlined in Chapter IV.

PLANNING PRINCIPLES

The Plan is grounded in six key planning principles, developed by the Steering Committee.

Principle 1: Access to Quality Higher Education

Ensure that the California Community Colleges continue to provide affordable, quality educational experiences, with the support services necessary to facilitate student success.

Principle 2: California's Social, Civic, and Economic Development

Reflect and address the wider needs and values of a democratic California and the State's people.

Principle 3: Shared Goals, Ideas and Resources

Frame a shared strategic agenda for collaboration across the Colleges and with our partners in education, business, industry, government and labor.

Principle 4: Existing Governance Processes

Implement the Plan through the established processes of bilateral and participatory governance.

Principle 5: Regional and Local Circumstances

Recognize and include the flexibility to address the broad diversity of community circumstances and institutional responses across California.

Principle 6: A Systems Approach to Management of Higher Education in California

Develop systems that recognize that the most productive solutions will be based in effective

coordination within the Colleges, across educational segments, and with external partners in civic, employer, and community groups.

VALUES

The Steering Committee also reaffirmed the values that the Colleges adhere to—the fundamental and unequivocal beliefs that California Community Colleges represent.

- All people have the opportunity to reach their full educational potential
- An educated citizenry is the basis for democracy
- The Colleges embrace diversity in all its forms
- The Colleges strive for innovation and creativity
- All people have a right to access quality higher education
- Lifelong learning benefits individuals and society

MISSIONS

The mission of the Colleges has evolved and expanded over time in response to the changing needs of students, communities and the state. The Colleges provide:

- Associate degrees and certificates shown to increase earnings and enable students to move forward in their professional development;
- Transfer education to public and private colleges and universities;
- Basic skills and English language proficiency for increasing numbers of students;
- Economic and workforce development to meet the ever-increasing demands of career-oriented young people, adult learners and incumbent workers; and
- With adequate funding, lifelong learning and educational opportunities for all Californians.

VISION

The vision presents the preferred future of the Colleges:

California's Community Colleges provide upward social and economic mobility through a commitment to open access and student success by delivering high quality, affordable and comprehensive higher education.

IV. STRATEGIC GOALS

The elements of the Guiding Framework will be implemented through five Strategic Goals:

- A. College Awareness and Access
- B. Student Success and Readiness
- C. Partnerships for Economic and Workforce Development
- D. System Effectiveness
- E. Resource Development

For each Strategic Goal, the Steering Committee identified key strategies. Each strategy is further described in terms of Needs and Issues, Desired Outcomes and Initiatives:

Needs and Issues. For each strategy, these sections provide the rationale for the strategy and an overview of the issues, highlighting the most compelling findings using the environmental scan to describe critical needs and challenges.

Desired Outcomes. These sections outline the desired future and describe what success will look like for each strategy.

Initiative. These sections outline a broad direction and a range of opportunities to be considered in the strategy development process.

Throughout this chapter, brief sidebar descriptions of recent achievements or innovations illustrate key concepts of the Strategic Plan.

The SSTF Report provides support for these strategies. The SSTF also goes further and takes many of the strategies to a higher level of analysis and application. Specific recommendations contained in the SSTF are incorporated in this updated Strategic Plan.

COLLEGE AWARENESS AND ACCESS

Increase awareness of college as a viable option and enhance access to higher education for growing populations.

Goal A

BACKGROUND

Under the Master Plan for Higher Education, the California Community Colleges are the State’s open door to postsecondary education. Their importance will increase dramatically, as California experiences significant demographic changes coupled with ongoing increases in the educational demands of the State’s economy.

By promoting awareness and access for all, the Colleges will ensure greater participation and success in higher education. For example, Latinos will make up 50 percent of the workforce by 2020. But current Latino participation and achievement in higher education is low, making enhanced outreach to this group critical at this time.

Greater outreach will also increase participation in other growing populations, such as older Americans, Asian Americans, first-generation college students, and adult workers without postsecondary education. Expanding access to everyone who can benefit is essential to the economic and social health of the State, as high-technology industries, the service sector and emerging fields continue to fuel California’s growth.

STRATEGY OVERVIEW

The strategies outlined in this section indicate that a holistic response is required to enhance access. The Colleges will begin working with students at the earliest possible stage: grade school. An “early awareness of college as a viable option” by students—and their parents—will communicate college readiness requirements and highlight the importance of some level of college education for future economic success.

The Colleges will create strategies to address the barriers to participation that many potential community college students face. Enhanced outreach will ensure that growing populations know about the opportunities and requirements of college education, while a variety of delivery methods will be used to provide flexibility in the time, place and manner of education. For example, first-generation college students, many of them children of immigrants, may have different approaches and needs regarding education.

STRATEGIES

- A1 *Early Awareness of College as a Viable Option*
- A2 *Removing Barriers to Access and Student Success*
- A3 *Innovative Programs and Outreach for Growing Populations*
- A4 *Multiple Delivery Methods*
- A5 *Institutional Capacity for Diversity*



A1
Early Awareness of College as a Viable Option

Encourage early awareness of the Community Colleges as an option and the need for K-12 students and parents to prepare for college success.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

California’s overall high school graduation rate is only about 76 percent. The graduation rates for African-American and Latino students are even lower: 70.4 percent for Latino students and 62.8 percent for African-Americans. Only about 52 percent of high school freshmen will continue on to some form of college education within two years of their expected graduation date. Those who do not continue on to college education will be disproportionately from underrepresented minority and low-income families. While some of the students who do not continue on to college from high school may attend college at a later date, research has shown that continuous enrollment from high school to college leads to higher levels of transfer and associate degree attainment and other measures of success.

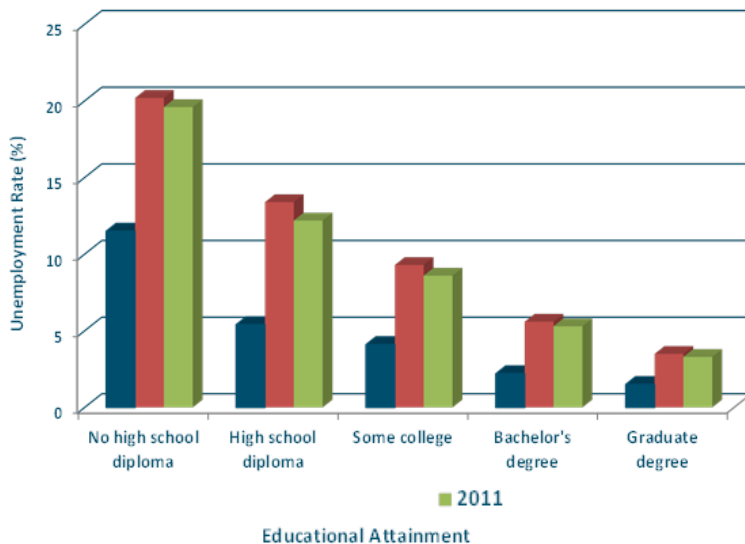
Low college-going rates leave too many students unprepared for the workforce, leading to higher unemployment and underemployment rates. A University of California, Santa Barbara, study concluded that one year’s worth of high school dropouts costs the state \$14 billion in lost wages.



Students’ expectations are formed early in the educational process, beginning in primary school, and this is reinforced by parental beliefs. If expectations are low, commitment to rigorous preparation may decline after this expectation is set. Research indicates that groups with lower rates of participation in higher education are more likely to over-estimate the costs of college attendance. Inaccurate perceptions of cost may weaken commitment to college preparation and attendance. On the other hand, students and families who believe college is a viable option are more likely to take more rigorous coursework and make plans to attend college.

Those who “opt out” of the college-bound track are also less likely to be aware of college entrance requirements, procedures for applying to college, and how to apply for financial aid.

Figure 4
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ARE MUCH LOWER FOR COLLEGE GRADUATES



Source: March CPS, all civilians in the labor force, restricted to California residents

There are many examples of successful partnerships between Community Colleges and high schools that increase awareness of college as a viable option. But further collaboration in early and enhanced outreach is needed between teachers, parents and students in the K-12 system—even as soon as primary school. There is a need to provide information, clarify procedures, set clear expectations and create seamless pathways from high school to higher education institutions. The Colleges can partner with the four-year institutions that are already working with the K-12 system on similar efforts.

DESIRED OUTCOME

Parents and students view Community Colleges as a viable and important higher education opportunity. As a consequence, they see rigorous academic preparation as relevant and necessary for further education and successful careers. A majority of high school students know the subject requirements and develop the skills necessary for college success. Increasing percentages of high school students continue directly from high school to Community College.

INITIATIVES

Develop strategies to address the following areas:

Outreach to Students and Parents. Support efforts by four-year institutions and K-12 to encourage widespread expectations among primary school students and their parents of the feasibility and importance of pursuing postsecondary education. Secondary students are the primary focus for this strategy, given that these students and their parents are involved in college decision-making.

Reach Students Early. Promote a college-going culture early on in middle and primary school. Improve perceptions at high schools about community colleges as options of first choice. Improve information available at K-12 on the subject requirements needed to succeed in community college and the availability of financial aid.



Enhancing Access to Financial Aid

To combat rising community college fees, the 2003 California State Budget Act redirected \$38 million dollars for expanding public awareness of financial aid and increasing service capacity staff in financial aid offices. Ninety percent of funds were allocated directly to colleges for staffing and local outreach efforts. Ten percent went towards a statewide campaign to increase student, family and community awareness of financial aid and how to access it.

There is definitive evidence that the local and statewide efforts have had a significant impact on awareness and access to financial aid:

In 2011-12 more than \$2.7 billion in student aid was distributed to nearly 1.1 million community college students. This represents an increase of 468 percent in dollars and 82 percent in recipients, since the inception of the funding.

- Over 392,000 students who were previously enrolled and received financial aid continue to receive financial aid in 2011-12.
- Over 118,000 previously enrolled students, who had never received financial aid before, received aid for the first time in 2011-12.
- Over 576,000 students, who were not enrolled in any prior year, received financial aid for the first time in 2011-12.
- 2 million unique visitors have accessed the icanaffordcollege.com website since its inception in 2003-04.

A2

Removing Barriers to Access and Student Success

Ensure that the Colleges remain affordable and fulfill their primary mission of providing open access to all Californians.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

The California Community Colleges serve students with diverse backgrounds, needs, learning styles and educational and career goals. These students have varied means with which to pay for college education. Many are from low-income families, work part-time or full-time jobs, have dependent families, have a disability, and/or have not accessed college education before.

College fees (see also E5: Fee Policy Review), the cost of books, transportation, childcare, housing, employment obligations, lack of adequate student services, low student engagement on campus and lack of adequate information about financial aid contribute to student obstacles. Existing programs include both financial aid and assistance with other needs. Low-income students are eligible to have their enrollment fees waived through the Board of Governors Enrollment Fee Waiver. Other financial aid is available through federal and state grants, federal loan programs and work-study programs. The Community Colleges provided over \$2.7 billion in total aid through all its programs in 2003–2004. Despite the efforts of public awareness campaigns, many students are not aware of these financial aid opportunities and requirements, and are not able to access information, read forms or understand procedures.

The Colleges provide a wide range of counseling and support services, some direct services (such as child care), and information and referral to public and non-governmental services. Despite these efforts, data suggests that challenges in students' personal lives are among the main reasons for interruptions in continuous progress toward student goals. Counseling and other support services that have been dramatically cut since 2009-10 will

need to be augmented and adapted to meet the needs of growing student populations, especially immigrants and their children, low-income students and first generation college students, and to support the successful completion of their educational goals.

Non-credit courses are an option to overcome the initial barrier to entering college. Many community college students—especially students from under-represented populations—use noncredit courses to increase basic skills or take a life enrichment course. Non-credit basic skills courses can provide a high school diploma or GED, or increase literacy skills for adults of all ages. Once at a college, students, for example, are then encouraged to take additional courses that can lead to certificates.

Recent legislation has opened the door of educational opportunity for thousands of immigrant students. The California Dream Act provides that nonresident students who meet specific requirements, including graduation from a California high school, may receive a Board of Governors Fee Waiver and other financial aid.

Students with disabilities face many barriers to access and success in addition to financial aid, appropriate courses and support services. These barriers include: physical restrictions on campus; access to distance education, software and other electronic resources; and availability of funding for interpreters to assist the deaf.

DESIRED OUTCOME

Students have information and access to the resources and services they need to achieve their educational goals.

INITIATIVES

Develop strategies to address financial and other barriers for community college students:

Financial Aid. Expand and improve existing programs to enhance students' awareness and access to available financial aid programs. Students with access to financial aid encounter fewer barriers and are able to devote sustained attention to the achievement of their educational goals. Research has shown that continuous enrollment is associated with achievement of educational goals.

Student Support Services. Identify those services most vital to students and partner with social service and transit agencies, publishers, local jurisdictions and others to

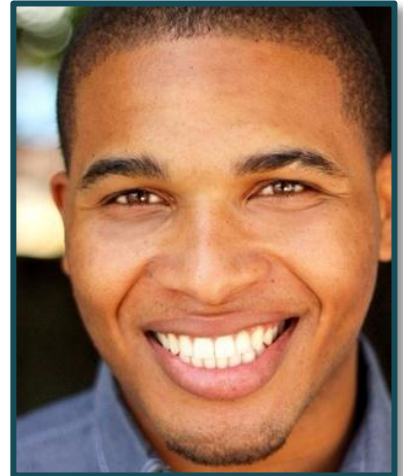
make childcare, transportation, housing, technology (especially to bridge the "digital divide" for low-income students), books and other needs more accessible and affordable for students. Develop alternative delivery methods for student services, including technology-mediated services.

Non-Credit Courses. Enhance funding and the use of noncredit courses as a tool to expand access to higher education and to meet the educational needs of local communities.

Student with Disabilities. Explore ways to improve access for students with disabilities.

STUDENT SUCCESS TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.3** Community Colleges will provide students the opportunity to consider the benefits of full-time enrollment, including financial aid.



Overcoming Barriers

Devon Libran could have succumbed to the mean streets of Oakland, his hometown, but his talents on the football field first got him to Humboldt State University and later to San Bernardino Valley College when he moved south to help care for his grandmother. His talents in front of movie cameras have earned him praise as an actor on the rise.

Libran, 24, said he took his education very seriously, worked hard and got the most out of the experience, earning an associate degree from San Bernardino Valley College in social and behavioral sciences and later a bachelor's degree from the University of La Verne in public administration. He's in the University of La Verne graduate program for a master's degree in leadership and management.

"You have to make a decision if you're going to work hard," said Libran, who stars in *Licks*, one of only eight films selected to premiere during the narrative feature competition at the 2013 South by Southwest Film Conference and Festival in Austin, Texas. "At (San Bernardino) Valley College I knew I couldn't relax. I took it seriously and I got the rewards." In fact, college may have saved his life", he said.

"Growing up, I was around violence so much that I became numb to it," Libran said. "That's a dangerous place to be as a young man and it's one of the similarities between me and my character in the movie. We both turned to sports as an outlet and an escape and I took it even further to really concentrate on getting an education."



Pathways to Success

Arturo overcame several major barriers in his life, including gang activity, prison, and gunshot wounds resulting from a life on the streets in San Fernando Valley, to succeed in the Los Angeles Valley College Advanced Manufacturing Training program.

Prior to attending the Manufacturing Academy, Arturo did not know how to overcome the barrier of having a criminal history and not being able to pass employers' background checks. When Arturo enrolled in AMTI, he was angry but he knew he needed to find a new career. In the AMTI program, Arturo excelled and gained the confidence he needed to become successful.

Indeed, Arturo so impressed AMTI staff that he was referred to a local aerospace manufacturer, which led to him being hired full-time as a Plater. "I am happy to be working and plan to continue my education at Los Angeles Valley College. Returning to school and pursuing higher education has been a life changing experience," Arturo said.

A3

Innovative Programs and Outreach for Growing Populations

Increase college access among growing population groups that will emerge from current demographic trends.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

The vast majority of low- and middle-income, African-American and Latino, older, working, second-career and non-English-speaking higher education students attend Community Colleges. The majority of California's "first generation" higher education students and most students from minority groups begin their academic careers at a Community College.

As the state's population grows and becomes more diverse, and as four-year institutions restrict access due to financial constraints, the Community Colleges' role in providing access to under-served populations will increase significantly.

Many young adults who currently do not have high school credentials can also benefit from Community College education. Many in this group may not be aware of academic and

career advancement opportunities at Community Colleges. Non-credit high school diplomas, GED, literacy, and basic skills programs, can provide a bridge to developmental education and credit programs for these under-prepared young adults.

The number of Latino high school graduates will increase dramatically, but many will not attend Community Colleges based on historic college-going rates. Not only are these groups under-represented at higher education institutions; they also require higher levels of support services to be successful at college-level work.

DESIRED OUTCOME

Students with diverse backgrounds, such as ethnicity, income level, educational background, age, and learning styles, have access to quality education at Community Colleges. All individuals, in addition to the traditional college-bound population and those who are interested in education for a vocational need, perceive the Colleges as an accessible opportunity for higher education.

INITIATIVES

Student Veterans. Develop strategies to raise awareness among staff and faculty on the unique needs of returning veterans. In addition, support student veterans transitioning from military service to college life by providing access to information, services, and peer support.

Encourage further expansion and development of college Veteran Resource Centers.

Develop strategies to enhance comprehensive access for the following key groups:

- The more than a half million students denied access due to recent budget cuts.

- Large numbers of long-term unemployed individuals who have been severely affected by the Great Recession.
- 18-24 years olds without high school degrees.

Adult Learners, Workforce Participants and Unskilled and Under-Skilled Workers.

Develop strategies to inform current jobholders about the opportunities available for training and retraining at the Community Colleges. In addition, reach out to working adults who may not be accessing education on community college campuses, for example, through dislocated worker programs and community-based organizations.



Programs for Veterans

College Veterans Resource Centers (VRC) provide a welcoming place for returning veteran students. The VRC focus is that of a “holistic” type of center that concentrates on academics, camaraderie and wellness. The goal is to assist veterans in acclimating to civilian life through a healthy educational process. One veteran student referred to the VRC as a “place of healing”. VRC’s support our military in a one-stop location where all services are centered on assisting students for a successful future.

Boots to Books

The Citrus College “Boots to Books” program is a model that showcases the collaborative effort that features classes, counseling, financial assistance, a book fund and a Veteran’s Center where Veterans will be able to study, socialize and exchange information. This program is designed to provide veterans, their families, and supporters, with assistance in making a positive transition to academic and civilian life. Key components include managing Military Readjustment Transition issues, interpersonal skills, and improving overall health and resilience.

The Road Home.....From Combat to College and Beyond

Several of our colleges have conducted “Road Home” events from Pasadena City College. These have been events aimed at fostering collaboration amongst academic faculty and staff, counselors, disabled student programs and services staff, veteran program coordinators, veteran resource program staff, student veteran organizations and members of the community. The goal is to increase awareness regarding the unique issues faced by veterans that are transitioning to civilian and college life, leading to the creation of a more supportive educational environment. “Road Home” events have included educational speakers and panel discussions as well as networking opportunities.

A4

Multiple Delivery Methods

Expand and sustain an appropriate range of delivery methods to enhance access while maintaining and promoting high standards of academic rigor and excellence.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

The use of technology is a necessary skill that students will need to learn to stay competitive in the current academic and work environment, and a tool for providing access to college education both in remote areas of the state and to part-time or full-time working students who are not able to fit into the regular college calendar. The California Community Colleges can increase the use of technology to help students succeed in their academic careers and ultimately participate in a knowledge-based society. The Colleges can provide universal access to quality education, and use technology to bridge access gaps that may be caused by income or geographical disparities.

DESIRED OUTCOME

There are multiple modes and formats available for teaching and learning, and for providing services that offer greater flexibility and enhanced access to students who otherwise would not be able to pursue a Community College education. Students develop skills and competencies for interfacing with current and relevant technology. Community College programs and services keep current with technological advancements and innovations.

INITIATIVES

Develop strategies to address the following areas:

On-Line Education. The digital revolution that is reshaping our society is also redefining how instruction occurs in our classrooms. Community Colleges have been innovators in on-line education, serving much higher proportions of our students through this medium than either CSU or UC. Community colleges should continue to develop online and hybrid courses and programs where it can be demonstrated that expansion serves student success. Develop strategies to incorporate technological competence in programs and student learning outcomes. Develop systemwide initiatives to support improvement and expansion of online education.

Rural Areas. Explore ways of using distance education to transmit advanced courses to rural high schools, provide professional development for teachers, nurses, business owners and others in rural communities, provide college classes to students in remote areas, and import specialized instruction from other community colleges.

Systemwide Infrastructure. Create a voluntary process of using systemwide hosting that will reduce costs and enable colleges to host distance education courses. Enhance the technology infrastructure across all colleges to address various platforms, for example, high-speed internet access, wireless connections, technical support, and computer replacement strategies.



A5 Institutional Capacity for Diversity

Support equity and diversity at the Community Colleges to build a strong society and enable a multicultural democracy.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

The demographic profile of California has changed dramatically over the last three decades. In 1970, 80 percent of the population was non-Hispanic white. By 2010, one of every four residents was foreign-born, and no racial or ethnic group constituted a majority of the State's population. Demographic trends suggest that the State will get more diverse in the future.

In September 2001, the Chancellor's Office issued an advisory that listed various steps the agency would take to maintain the Board of Governors' commitment to diversity in light of the changes in California law.

Among other things, the advisory announced the System Office's decision to establish an Equity and Diversity Task Force to consider new approaches. The task force explored innovative policy approaches to promoting diversity and student equity without violating the restrictions imposed by Proposition 209. These approaches are listed in the November 2002 "Commitments" document that was adopted by the Board of Governors.

DESIRED OUTCOME

The Colleges celebrate and benefit from the diversity of California's population and provide equal opportunity to a diverse student population. The Colleges strengthen and expand the ability of all employees to demonstrate sensitivity to student diversity and provide equal opportunity for recruiting new employees.

INITIATIVE

Promote Diversity. Monitor and track implementation of the "Commitments" from the Equity and Diversity Task Force Report adopted by the Board of Governors.

A Commitment to Equity

The California Community Colleges take great pride in being the gateway to opportunity for Californians of all backgrounds, including traditionally underrepresented economic, social, and racial/ethnic subgroups. Our system "looks like California" and we are committed to maintaining that quality. The goal of equitable access—and the importance that all students achieve success—is a driving force behind the recommendations contained in the SSTF Report.

The SSTF recommendations are aimed at increasing the share of students from all demographic and socioeconomic subgroups who attain a certificate, complete a degree, or transfer to a four-year college or university. As such, improving overall completion rates and closing achievement gaps among historically underrepresented students are co-equal goals. The system's commitment to educational equity is most explicitly demonstrated by the proposal to establish statewide and college-level performance goals that are disaggregated by racial/ethnic group. Doing so will allow the system and state leaders to monitor impacts of the policy changes on these subgroups while also focusing state and local efforts on closing gaps in educational attainment. Given California's changing demographic profile, the success of these historically underrepresented groups will determine the fortunes of our state.



STUDENT SUCCESS AND READINESS

Promote college readiness and provide the programs and services to enable all students to achieve their educational and career goals.

BACKGROUND

Student success is the primary goal of the Colleges. Whether students come to a college to take one course to develop a specific skill, begin or re-orient their career, learn English or take a citizenship class, obtain a degree or certificate, or transfer to a four-year institution, the common link is that they move closer to an important personal educational objective. Over 2.4 million people, over 8 percent of the state’s adult population, attended the Colleges in 2011-2012 to advance their goals. Almost 70 percent of students attend part-time. In addition to benefiting from harder-to-measure successes such as job advancement and personal enrichment, approximately 70,000 students transfer to a California State University or University of California campus each year. In 2011-12, 89,908 students received the associate’s degree and 64,614 received career certificates.

The Colleges face several challenges to maintaining and expanding on these successes. A recent survey of the Colleges indicates that over 50 percent of incoming students arrive lacking the basic math or English skills required to complete college-level work. The large number of unprepared students also affects the other public institutions of higher education and is projected to become more pressing as demographic changes further increase the number of students who have low rates of participation and achievement in higher education.

Another challenge is the lack of consistency between high school curriculum, standards, and assessments, and those of the Colleges. Many students arrive at the Colleges believing they have successfully prepared for college by passing the California High Schools Exit Exam (CAHSEE) only to discover that they will need to improve their basic skills before being able to take courses for college credit.

STRATEGY OVERVIEW

The strategies in this section position the Colleges to address these challenges. The core strategy is to provide the best possible basic skills education to all students who need it. There is a wealth of knowledge and experience on what works. The task is to ensure that students receive the benefit of the most effective program. A critical element is to examine the assessment and placement process to ensure that students’ level of

Figure 5

STUDENT AGE PROFILE

Student Age	Profile
19 or less	24%
20-24	31%
25-29	13%
30-39	14%
40-49	9%
50+	10%

Source:
California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office
(2013)

preparation is accurately identified and used to place students in appropriate courses. Another area of significant potential for enhancing basic skills is the career pathway model. This connects basic skills education with a coordinated sequence of courses linked to growing career areas, an approach which clearly connects basic skills attainment to a student’s near-term goals.

One of the most important long-term strategies is to improve the consistency and alignment between the K-12 system and the Colleges. Improving preparation levels and awareness of career options “early in the pipeline” is potentially the most effective way to improve readiness. The use of the CSU Early Assessment Program (EAP) by

STRATEGIES

- B1 *Basic Skills as the Foundation for Student Success*
- B2 *Assessment and Placement*
- B3 *Articulation with K-12*
- B4 *Intersegmental Transfer*
- B5 *Teaching and Learning Effectiveness*
- B6 *Degrees and Certificates*
- B7 *Innovative Practices in Workforce Education*
- B8 *Provide Students with Increased Direction and Expectations*



community colleges is a positive development. 71 community colleges now accept EAP test results that indicate students are “college-ready” in lieu of their own assessment tests for placement into transfer-level English and math classes. Similarly, strengthening partnerships with California’s other higher education institutions to facilitate transfer will greatly benefit students.

The SSTF Report addressed the fact that a vast majority of first-time students entering California community colleges are underprepared for college-level work. In the California community colleges, 70 to 90 percent of first-time students who take an assessment test require remediation in English, math, or both. In 2010, 79 percent of California’s 11th grade students who took the Early Assessment Program (EAP) college readiness test did not test “college ready.” Currently, System policies between K-12 and postsecondary education related to standards, curriculum, and assessment are not well aligned to communicate either clear expectations for college or career readiness or to support a smooth transition for high school graduates. Within the K-12 system, students and parents receive conflicting messages about expectations for high school completion because CAHSEE measures English and mathematics skills that are far below the standards adopted for 11th and 12th grade curriculum. Thus, many students have been led to believe that they are ready to graduate and proceed on to colleges without actually having met grade-level standards.

The SSTF also focused on the importance of goals and early guidance. While students are asked to indicate their educational objective on the application for admission, many students are unclear about their educational objectives when they first enroll in community college and remain so for too long given no systematic process, or even encouragement, to define and pursue a specific program or major. The current matriculation model assumes that students will clarify their educational objective in the course of meeting with a counselor. However, many students never see a counselor. Even before the 52 percent budget cut to Matriculation funding in 2009, colleges were unable to provide all students with access to counseling services to help them clarify and refine their educational objectives and assist with the development of education plans to achieve those objectives. Student-to-counselor ratios range from 800 to 1 to more than 1,800 to 1 in the community colleges. As a result, students often enroll in basic skills or general education courses without understanding the level of rigor associated with the course or the applicability of the course to any specific program or transfer objective. While there is clearly value to students having the opportunity to explore disciplines and other options before declaring their program or major, there is a difference between systematic exploration and the blind trial and error experienced by too many students. Helping students make informed choices about their education is a critical strategy to help increase student success in the California community colleges.

Every student who enrolls to pursue a certificate, degree, or transfer objective, and in many cases even those seeking career advancement, needs a Student Education Plan that represents the sequence of courses that can get them from their starting point to attainment of their educational goal. Students who arrive without a clear goal need an education plan that allows them to systematically define their educational needs and objectives and explore their options. For example, a student who indicates transfer as the goal but lacks a major or career objective should be guided to enroll in general education courses, along with basic skills courses or resources if the student’s assessment results indicate such a need.

B1

Basic Skills as the Foundation for Student Success

Ensure that basic skills development is a major focus and an adequately funded activity of the Colleges.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

This Plan refers to the need for pre-collegiate math and English skills development as “basic skills.” Another term is “developmental education.” Many students entering all segments of higher education in California need to develop these basic skills to successfully participate in college coursework. Given the level of need, providing effective basic skills education is a critical challenge to the promise of the Colleges as a gateway to opportunity and success for students.

Developing solutions to meet basic skills needs is critical to success in all other Community College missions: career training, transfer, and lifelong learning. Far more than half of entering students who were assessed in fall 2012 placed at a level below college readiness at most responding Colleges. A survey of California Community College placement test results confirmed this high level of student need—only about 15 percent of students placed in transfer level math and about 28 percent of students placed in transfer level English. Over 85 percent of students needed basic skills math and 72 percent needed basic skills English.

While the need for developmental education is high and growing, there are barriers to success for basic skills students.

Course Success. Basic skills course success rates are significantly lower than those for transfer courses. The statewide course success rate in basic skills (63 percent) is about 5-10 percent lower than that of other courses. Course success in elementary algebra is particularly poor, with a statewide average of less than 53 percent even lower rates for some ethnic minority groups. At a rate of 46.9 percent, Latino students are below the systemwide average, as are African-Americans at 40.2 percent.

Retention and Persistence.

Increasing student retention rates will allow more students to complete their programs. Efforts are also needed to improve semester-to-semester persistence, especially into the second year of college study.

Information Literacy. With rapid technological change and an expanding array of information resources, information literacy is becoming an increasingly important skill, both in higher education and in the workplace. At the same time, increasing numbers of Community College students arrive at the Colleges lacking basic information literacy: the ability to recognize when information is needed and then locate, evaluate, and use the needed information effectively. This issue faces both students who have completed high school and those who dropped out.

Achievement of Degrees or Transfer.

Students who begin at the lowest levels of basic skills are unlikely to get a degree or transfer to a university. Students who begin the basic skills math sequence in arithmetic have only a 10 percent probability of attempting transfer level mathematics, while students who begin the basic skills English sequence in reading fundamentals have just a 25 percent probability of attempting transfer level English.

Funding. While for-credit, non-degree-applicable basic skills courses are funded at the same level as other credit courses, noncredit basic skills courses are funded at approximately 60 percent of the rate provided to credit courses, reducing the resources available to this critical function and creating a disincentive to offering noncredit basic skills courses.



Basic Skills Initiative

The California Community Colleges' Basic Skills Initiative provides additional funding and assistance with the goal of increasing students' success in their pre-transfer level courses. Starting in the 2007-2008 academic year, each college in the California Community College system received funding, above its general funding, and Chancellor's Office support to improve the success rates of students in courses below transfer level.

Acceleration in Context (AIC)

Moving into its third year of serving community colleges across California, Acceleration in Context (AIC) continues to operate from the premise that educational reform thrives best when faculty creativity and initiative are trusted to foster local innovation. To this end, AIC engages faculty around their passion for teaching, dedication to their craft while taking risks, and the complex contexts of their institutions and communities.

<http://the-initiative.accelerationincontext.net>
Tom deWit and Sean McFarland
AIC co-Directors

Habits of Mind Project

Habits of Mind initiative, launched in 2012 at Cerritos College, provides professional development for addressing students' limited academic populations and attitudes required for college success. Recognizing that students bring to college different sets of learning experiences, expectations, values and habits that influence what they attend to, questions they ask and choices they make, this initiative focuses on how we:

- Create structures and practices that preclude poor choice-making.
- Intentionally incorporate habits of mind building into instruction and services.
- Adopt strategies that promote self-regulated learning along with content mastery.
- Deliver services that build self-efficacy and responsibility.

Jan Connal, Counselor, Cerritos College, and Coordinator, 3CSN Habits of Mind Project
More information at <http://3csn.org>

There is a rich array of research literature on effectiveness practices. The critical needs are to secure funding, promote adaptation and adoption, and ongoing implementation. A number of strategies have proven effective, including: innovative program structures, peer support, tutoring, supplemental instruction, counseling, support services, learning communities, and intensive assessment and follow-up.

Many programs that incorporate these effective practices are currently offered to some targeted populations, but the Colleges are not funded to implement effective approaches to reach all students needing basic skills education. Furthermore, Colleges that have developed successful pilot projects lack institutional funding for ongoing implementation and assessing success.

DESIRED OUTCOME

Effective basic skills education programs are adequately funded and integrated into the curriculum. Students see the relevance of basic skills education and have a clear “road map” of the course sequences leading to their goals. Colleges provide institutional commitment to basic skills education and integrate instruction and support services. All students needing basic skills education participate in matriculation processes, receive effective student services and have access to instructional support programs, leading to enhanced levels of academic achievement and equity of student outcomes. There are Statewide strategies for compiling, disseminating and supporting effective practices for basic skills education.

INITIATIVES

Develop strategies to address the following areas:

Best Practices. Identify existing basic skills effective practices, funding needs for institutionalizing the effective practices, and an approach for disseminating the effective practices (with or without augmented funding). Develop a shared effort across the Colleges, leading to the implementation and funding of a range of effective basic skills offerings, tailored to address local needs by college faculty, staff and administrators.

Comprehensive Approach. Address all relevant aspects of community college education and services, including: matriculation (assessment,

placement, advising, counseling); instructional design; learning resources; curriculum design and sequencing; and supplemental learning activities (e.g., tutoring, group learning, supplemental instruction, etc.); and other student support services. Identify effective practices in professional development and training and organizational processes and structures. A key organizational topic is the relationship between instruction and student services.

Evaluate and apply the following success factors:

- **Shared Responsibility:** Develop regular processes for cross-functional discussion about effectiveness and improvements. Faculty have the primary responsibility for educational matters and therefore for basic skills programs. Basic skills development is a concern for all faculty. At the same time, basic skills education is a responsibility of the whole College system and there should be supportive processes across the Colleges.
- **Program Development Leadership:** Ensure that discipline faculty have the resources and staffing to provide leadership in developing instructional approaches to providing basic skills education, working in partnership with student service professionals, noninstructional faculty and instructional paraprofessionals.
- **Effective Pedagogy and Classroom Research:** Ensure that basic skills programs are relevant, engaging, and pedagogically sound. Faculty have the resources to regularly conduct research on the effectiveness of their teaching methods.
- **Clear Course Sequences Leading to Goal Achievement:** Link basic skills programs directly to students’ ultimate educational goals. The sequencing of basic skills to general education, transfer-level, or career/tech courses should be clearly understood by students.
- **Applied Learning:** Link basic skills to employment skills. Student acquisition of basic skills is enhanced when connected to a practical application.
- **Early Math and English:** Ensure students take appropriate math and English courses early in their programs. Colleges should have the resources to provide assessment and necessary courses.

- **Integration:** Integrate basic skills development into the course of educational life at the colleges. Identify and implement best practices for incorporating basic skills development across the curriculum. Provide linkages between noncredit basic skills, credit developmental basic skills and credit programs to provide pathways for student success.
- **Funding for Institutionalizing Best Practices:** Identify the funding needs for implementing the best practices. Propose needed funding levels and sources to support ongoing funding for enhanced levels of services.

The SSTF reviewed extensive research on basic skills and developed additional recommendations.

STUDENT SUCCESS TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.4 Community colleges will require students to begin addressing basic skills needs in their first year and will provide resources and options for them to attain the competencies needed to succeed in college-level work as part of their education plan.
- 5.1 Community Colleges will support the development of alternatives to traditional basic skills curriculum and incentivize colleges to take to scale successful model programs for delivering basic skills instruction.
- 5.2 The state should develop a comprehensive strategy for addressing basic skills education in California that results in a system that provides all adults with the access to basic skills courses in mathematics and English. In addition, the state should develop a comparable strategy for addressing the needs of adults for courses in English as a second language (ESL).
- 8.3 Encourage innovation and flexibility in the delivery of basic skills instruction.



B2

Assessment and Placement

Develop methods to more effectively assess student preparedness levels and to place students in appropriate courses.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

Students who enroll in courses that are appropriate for their preparation levels are much more likely to achieve course success and persist in their path to their goals. Yet the assessment and placement process, which is designed to achieve this outcome, has had mixed results. Traditionally, community colleges have favored student choice in course selection, but more direction may be beneficial. The difficulties with assessment and placement reflect a range of issues— from the negative stigma attached to basic skills courses by some students, to students' strong desire to move immediately to courses they can apply toward degrees, transfer, or career advancement. Solutions will need to address this broader context to be effective. (See Strategy B1 for the Plan's overall approach to Basic Skills). The key issues identified by practitioners and researchers include:

Validity/Efficacy. According to an Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) report, 25 percent of colleges report that their assessment processes do not adequately place students into appropriate basic skills courses. The report estimates that this represents approximately 337,000 students having been potentially misdirected. (Issues in Basic Skills Assessment and Placement, ASCCC, 2004.)

Uneven Use of Assessment Recommendations. One-third of students do not choose to take basic skills courses after tests indicate that they would benefit from such courses. (Issues in Basic Skills Assessment and Placement, ASCCC, 2004.)

Appropriate Testing for Non-Native Speakers of English. There is a range of issues related to ensuring appropriate assessment for non-native speakers of English. For example, recent immigrants may take English assessment tests for native speakers of English, but English as a Second Language assessments may be more appropriate. Tests designed for native speakers may direct non-native speakers into inappropriate courses. (Issues in Basic Skills Assessment and Placement, Academic Senate, 2004.)

Need for Orientation and Counseling. Orientation and counseling are crucial steps in ensuring that students use assessment and placement results effectively. Although these services are widely available and effective, many students are not participating in orientation and counseling. About 1.5 million credit students were directed to orientation in 2002–2003, but 500,000 did not attend. Of the 44,776 noncredit students directed to orientation, only 26,380 attended. During the same year, 1.5 million were referred to counseling, but almost 1 million did not go. (Issues in Basic Skills Assessment and Placement, ASCCC, 2004.)

Articulation with K-12. The wide range of academic content in Community College courses signals the need for improved coordination between high school and Community College course work. Students are frustrated and discouraged when they are placed into basic skills courses in subjects they passed in high school.

Opportunities for Early Assessment. The CSU early assessment program is an opportunity for the Colleges to engage with high schools and with CSU to improve preparation levels in ways that meet the needs of the Colleges. But unlike the CSU, the Colleges need to balance the move towards standardization of assessment with flexibility and innovation.

Opportunities for Informed Self-Assessment as a Complement to Assisted Assessments. Research experience suggests that some students can accurately assess their level of preparation by reading descriptions of courses and their required competencies. New assessment software programs could provide an initial preparation profile that could then be assessed with a counselor.

Articulation among the Colleges. There are multiple forms of English, math, and ESL placements exams across the 112 colleges. For students seeking to attend multiple Community Colleges, the need to retake tests can present a barrier.

Need for Information Sharing and Consistency. There is a wide range of definitions of what constitutes college level work across California's education system. There is an opportunity for expanded information sharing—and developing

common definitions—between the Colleges, UC, CSU and K-12 to identify types of data that will be needed for basic skills placement and for evaluating the success of basic skills programs.

Opportunities for Using Ongoing Assessment as a Diagnostic Tool. Ongoing assessment results may be used for evaluating student learning needs and outcomes and effective ongoing case management.

DESIRED OUTCOME

Students see the value of the assessment process and use the results to enroll in appropriate courses. The assessment process accurately identifies preparation levels and provides students with a better understanding of their needs, and enhances their ability to manage their own educational path. Increasing numbers of students who can benefit participate in orientation and counseling services.

The Colleges and K-12 continue to coordinate to improve the alignment of the curriculum and standards in ways that support the interests and approaches of both segments, in collaboration with CSU and UC. The Colleges partner with CSU and K-12 in early assessment. There are multiple options for assessment, including informed self-assessment, and there are active efforts to ensure that students can easily attend multiple Community Colleges without having to repeat assessment testing.

INITIATIVES

Develop strategies to identify effective assessment and placement practices, to identify funding needs for institutionalizing the effective practices, and to identify an approach for disseminating the effective practices.

The SSTF developed specific strategies to support this initiative.

STUDENT SUCCESS TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 2.1 | Community colleges will develop and implement a common centralized assessment for English reading and writing, mathematics, and ESL that can provide diagnostic information to inform curriculum development and student placement and that, over time, will be aligned with the K-12 Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and assessments. |
| 2.2 | Require all incoming community college students to: (1) participate in diagnostic assessment and orientation and (2) develop an education plan. |
| 2.3 | Community colleges will develop and use centralized and integrated technology, which can be accessed through campus or district web portals, to better guide students in their educational process. |
| 2.4 | Require students whose diagnostic assessments show a lack of readiness for college to participate in a support resource, such as a student success course, learning community, or other sustained intervention, provided by the college for new students. |

B3

Articulation with K-12

Enhance alignment of K-12 and Community College standards, curriculum and assessment processes.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

There is a mismatch currently between the skill levels achieved by high school students and the requirements for success at the Community Colleges. The result is that over 60 percent of entering students require basic skills education before beginning college work.

The Early Assessment Program (EAP) has been a positive development for K-12/postsecondary education alignment. The EAP is embedded within the 11th Grade California Standards Test (CST), so that students and parents can get feedback on college readiness in time for remedial efforts in the 12th grade to occur. Community colleges and CSU built a joint Web site (www.collegeEAP.org) where students are directed to available support resources. The number of community colleges that accept a designation of “college-ready” on the EAP in lieu of local assessment tests has grown to 71.

In 2010, the California State Board of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) that define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education so that they will graduate high school able to succeed in transfer-level college courses and in workforce training programs that integrate college and career. In 2011, California joined the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (Smarter Balanced), one of two multi-state consortia awarded funding from the U.S. Department of Education to implement an assessment system aligned to the CCSS by the 2014-15 school year. Community colleges, along with UC and CSU administrators and faculty, have been active participants in designing the Smarter Balanced 11th grade assessment

and defining college readiness. This presents an opportunity to transition the EAP to use the new assessment as evidence that high school students are ready for transfer-level coursework.

DESIRED OUTCOME

Community College assessments of appropriate preparation levels are reflected in high school curricula and assessments. High school students and their parents have clear understandings of the competencies needed for college success. The Colleges are actively engaged with K-12 and other segments of higher education on an ongoing basis to work toward increased alignment.

INITIATIVES

Develop strategies to address the following areas:

Early Assessment. Collaborate with the CSU and K-12 to expand use of the EAP, to increase student preparation levels and alignment of curricula. Also, identify options to align high school and college assessments so that they reinforce each other.

Key areas to be addressed include: lack of congruence between high school math and English courses and community college equivalents, and clarity of pathways.

Concurrent Enrollment. Provide opportunities for advanced education for high school students through concurrent enrollment in community colleges. Promote early college/high school and middle college/high school programs.

Supporting K-12 Reform. Support current K-12 reform efforts to improve student achievement levels that are supportive of college preparation.

Curriculum Alignment. Participate in state-level dialogs to increase the alignment of curriculum between the Colleges and K-12.



STUDENT SUCCESS TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 Community Colleges will collaborate with K-12 education to jointly develop new common standards for college and career readiness that are aligned with high school exit standards.
- 5.2 The community colleges, with their K-12 and community-based partners, should develop a clear strategy to respond to the continuum of need in order to move students from educational basic skills to career and college readiness.



Value of the Associate Degree for Transfer

Lindsay Hughes almost dropped out of high school. Hughes is now a proud owner of a newly minted Associate Degree for Transfer and transferred to California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo as a speech communications major.

Community college students who complete an associate degree designated for transfer are guaranteed admission to the CSU system with junior status and are given priority consideration when applying to a California State University campus and to a particular program that is designated as similar to the student's community college major.

Hughes is a testament to the power of hard academic work and the value of the new Associate Degree for Transfer.

"I was messing up in high school and hung out with a bad crowd," the Grover Beach resident said. "Instead of dropping out I went to continuation high school and graduated at 16. I took a couple of years off between graduating and going to community college."

But she said she's glad she did. Hughes made up for lost time by graduating this past spring with four degrees: her Associate in Arts for Transfer (AA-T) degree in communication studies, and associate degrees in liberal arts, speech communications and transfer studies.

"I had all these units and knew I was close to either graduating or being able to transfer," Hughes said. "But once I was told by my counselor that I could get an (Associate Degree for Transfer) that would help get me into Cal Poly it was a no-brainer."

B4

Intersegmental Transfer

Ensure that the Community College system and its partners are maintaining and improving the transfer function to meet the needs of students and the State of California.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

A bachelor's degree is a minimum requirement for many workforce fields, highlighting the importance of transfer. The State's economy is increasingly knowledge-based, requiring technical professional education. In recent years, California has seen increasing recruitment of professionals from other countries, indicating the need and opportunity to increase the number of Californians who possess baccalaureate training or more. A majority of entering community college students identify transfer to a baccalaureate institution as their educational goal. While approximately 70,000 Community College students transfer to California's senior institutions each year, several issues present challenges to the ongoing success of the transfer function.

Student Perception and Experience. There are 23 CSU and 12 UC campuses in the State. Historically, each campus has had its own transfer program. Along with the structural complexity, the transfer process itself is often complex and confusing. Students experience a high level of uncertainty about transfer requirements due to unexpected changes in admittance notices and application requirements. This problem has been particularly acute when there are insufficient seats for transfer students relative to demand.

Differing Educational Missions and Approaches. While the four-year institutions have an interest in steering students into courses required for a major, the Colleges have broad goals that require preserving multiple options for students.

Some Groups Underrepresented in Transfer. First-time California Community College admits have roughly the same racial/ethnic distribution as high school graduates, but transfers are characterized by severe under-representation of African-American and Latino transfer students.

College-to-College Variation in Transfer.

Community Colleges vary in their transfer rates. The primary factors are: proximity to a CSU campus, average age of students, and differences in educational goals and preparation of students.

Students at some community colleges have had a relatively clear path to transfer to their local CSU, but there has been no statewide pathway for students to attend non-local campuses and for students at community colleges that are not proximate to any CSU to gain transfer admission.

DESIRED OUTCOME

Students seeking transfer can easily and reliably identify the requirements for transfer to a four-year institution. Students are able to transfer to a four-year institution that meets their educational needs. Intersegmental transfer programs and agreements are streamlined or comprehensively redesigned to reduce the number and complexity of transfer processes.

INITIATIVES

Develop strategies to address the following areas:

Improve the Process. Identify a target number of upper division transfer slots that matches projected needs. Develop funding and other methods to promote an adequate number of slots at four-year institutions for transfer-ready Community College graduates. Address real and perceived barriers to transferring to universities outside of students' home communities.

The Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act (SB 1440 – Padilla), signed into law on September 29, 2010, has enabled the California Community Colleges and California State University to collaborate on the creation of Associate of Arts for Transfer (AA-T) and Associate of Science for Transfer (AS-T) programs that provide a statewide transfer

pathway. The law requires community colleges to grant an associate degree for transfer to a student who has earned 60 units that meet specified general education and major requirements with a grade point average of at least 2.0. Upon completion of the associate degree, the student is eligible for transfer with junior standing into the California State University (CSU) system and is guaranteed the opportunity to earn a baccalaureate degree in another 60 units.

Students are further given priority consideration when applying to a particular major that is similar to the student's community college major, and when applying to their local CSU. This is particularly important when the CSU campus or the desired major is impacted, meaning there are more qualified applicants than seats available. The

law prohibits the CSU from requiring a transferring student to repeat courses similar to those taken at the community college that counted toward their associate degree for transfer.

With implementation of SB 1440 well underway, faculty at the University of California reached an agreement that students who apply to transfer and who have earned an associate degree for transfer will be guaranteed "comprehensive review," which is an essential step to admission. While not a guarantee of actual admission, it is an important step.

Other States and Private Institutions. Develop transfer agreements with other states and private institutions to expand opportunities for Community College students.



B5

Teaching and Learning Effectiveness

Support effective teaching and learning.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

Community Colleges serve many educational needs and are dedicated to the teaching and learning process. The delivery of consistent high-quality instruction faces several challenges:

- Diverse student learning styles and preparation levels
- Limited funding for program innovation and professional development
- Need for expanded instructional support services
- Lack of information needed to assess teaching effectiveness
- The need for more full-time faculty positions
- Inability of part-time faculty to adequately interact with students outside class
- Facility constraints that hamper effective learning environments

The Colleges can benefit from a range of resources and opportunities. The Colleges have experienced success in several areas, including: innovative program designs, such as learning communities and integrated curricula; information literacy training; and new instructional approaches and academic support services (tutoring, supplemental instruction, distance education, classroom assessment). The Colleges have begun a process of identifying and measuring actual student learning through the “student learning outcomes” process. This process will continue forward as the Colleges

address student success goals and accreditation standards based on student outcomes.

Student engagement is a significant factor in determining success. Mentoring, counseling, direct contact with faculty, counselors and librarians, freshman programs, job shadowing, career information, campus activities and other personalized approaches foster student involvement in academic and nonacademic goals.

Meaningful faculty contact is currently available primarily from full-time faculty members. Full-time faculty members spend more time on campus than part-time faculty, and provide opportunities for many formal and informal interactions with students. By definition, part-time faculty cannot provide an equivalent level of student contact. But funding office hours for part-time faculty will enhance opportunities to provide advice and mentoring. Part-time faculty can also participate in curriculum development, especially in career technical programs.

Counselors play a critical role in enhancing teaching and learning effectiveness through direct contact with students, especially students from low-income families and first-time college students. Counselors provide services that address personal development and other barriers that students face in pursuing their educational and career goals at the Colleges.

The overall challenge is to support high levels of quality in instruction through innovation and adoption of existing effective practices.

DESIRED OUTCOME

All Community College faculty members and counselors, as well as other academic support service professionals, engage in an ongoing process of ensuring the highest levels of effective teaching and learning.

INITIATIVES

Develop strategies to promote the expansion of existing practices and the adoption of new, effective practices to support quality instruction and student engagement.



B6

Degrees and Certificates

Identify effective practices for enhancing students' ability to attain degrees and certificates.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

Perceptions are mixed about the value of degrees and certificates granted by the Community Colleges—both inside and outside the Community College system. For example, some students who qualify for the associate's degree do not petition to receive it, and the public is either not aware of or does not recognize the value of the degree.

At the same time, associates degrees and certificates are actually very valuable, increasing student earnings and promoting career enhancement. The noncredit certificates of completion for certain courses and programs can be valuable in obtaining employment or meeting the specific needs for work skills.



DESIRED OUTCOME

The public increasingly perceives that certificates and associate degree are valuable credentials that signal the achievement of a range of academic and personal competencies. Students, faculty and staff also have increasing levels of support for certificates and degrees.

INITIATIVES

Conduct communication and outreach to increase awareness, both inside the College system and with key external audiences. Increase the use of degree audits to help students understand their degree status. Increase the number of students petitioning for degrees. Ensure programs are designed and subsequent course offerings are delivered through in-class or distance education in a comprehensive and organized track that allows a student to complete a degree or certificate in a timely manner.

B7**Innovative Practices in Workforce Education**

Support innovation in workforce education.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

The Colleges provide education and training to incumbent workers and those seeking employment. Many of these students are seeking short-courses to meet specific career needs. Others will enroll in degree or certificate programs. Many incumbent workers will need short-term, not-for-credit instruction designed to upgrade or enhance job performance, or to hasten finding a job.

In addition to many challenges faced by younger students, adult learners returning to the classroom after a long hiatus from formal education must deal with assessment instruments inappropriate to adult learners. Many students also seek a variety of “soft skills” ranging from work readiness to communication and team dynamics.

DESIRED OUTCOME

The Colleges provide a full range of instructional and support services that meet the needs of students preparing to enter the workforce or already working. The Colleges work with key industries and local employers to determine the skills, competencies, on-the-job performance requirements, and delivery mechanisms needed to enhance career technical education programming.

INITIATIVES

Promote the adoption of effective practices in adult workforce education.



B8**Provide Students with Increased Direction and Expectations**

Historically, the community colleges have allowed students great latitude to set their own pace and proceed with their education often with little intervention by the college. Numerous studies have shown that this approach does not maximize success. Policies that enable students to wander around the curriculum, withdraw and repeat classes multiple times, avoid services that could help them find a productive pathway, and accumulate an unlimited number of units are a disservice to enrolled students and to those who can't get into the system for lack of available classes.

As a system, we have both initiated and continue to rely on these ineffective policies. However, now is the time for the community college system to abandon these ineffective policies and adopt enrollment management policies that encourage students to follow and make progress along delineated educational pathways that are most likely to lead to completion of a certificate, degree, transfer, or career advancement goal.

STUDENT SUCCESS TASK FORCE

<i>Number</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>
2.3	Community colleges will develop and use centralized and integrated technology, which can be accessed through campus or district web portals, to better guide students in their educational process.
2.4	Require students whose diagnostic assessments show a lack of readiness for college to participate in a support resource, such as a student success course, learning community, or other sustained intervention, provided by the college for new students.
2.5	Encourage students to declare a program of study upon admission, intervene if a declaration is not made by the end of their second term, and require declaration by the end their third term in order to maintain enrollment priority.
3.1	The Community Colleges will adopt systemwide enrollment priorities that: (1) reflect the core mission of transfer, career technical education and basic skills development; (2) encourage students to identify their educational objective and follow a prescribed path most likely to lead to success; (3) ensure access and the opportunity for success for new students; and (4) incentivize students to make progress toward their educational goal.
3.2	Require students receiving Board of Governors (BOG) Fee Waivers to meet institutional satisfactory progress standards to be eligible for the fee waiver renewal.
3.3	Community Colleges will provide students the opportunity to consider the benefits of full-time enrollment.
3.4	Community colleges will require students to begin addressing basic skills needs in their first year and will provide resources and options for them to attain the competencies needed to succeed in college-level work as part of their education plan.
4.1	Highest priority for course offerings shall be given to credit and noncredit courses that advance students' academic progress in the areas of basic skills, ESL, CTE, degree and certificate attainment, and transfer, in the context of labor market and economic development needs of the community.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Goal C

Strengthen the Colleges' capacities to respond to current and emerging labor market needs and to prepare students to compete in a global economy.

BACKGROUND

Career education and economic development are critical elements of the Community College mission. Many students come to the Colleges to obtain occupational degrees and certificates. In addition, long-term demographic trends indicate that California will need to serve a substantial population of working-age adults with low levels of educational attainment and few connections to traditional education. The changing nature of the economy will also require ongoing education and training opportunities for the existing workforce.

The State of California does not have a comprehensive approach to overcome this challenge. The Colleges, through their statewide presence and existing links to employers, offer tremendous potential. Career technical education training has long been a mission of the Community Colleges, but over the past two decades, economic development has emerged as a major program. In addition, the Economic and Workforce Development (EWD) program provides services to small business through its Small Business Development Centers and assistance in international trade development. These are important missions, given the state's overwhelming dependence on small firms to generate new jobs and the explosive economic development in Asia.

The EWD has begun providing opportunities for faculty development, and the creation and incubation of new curriculum and new technologies that, over time, can become institutionalized and disseminated statewide. These efforts occur in high growth or emerging industries like, health, information and communication technologies and advanced manufacturing.

Additional career pathways in priority and emergent sectors are being identified and curricula developed to provide a skilled labor pool to meet employer needs within them. Meanwhile, the Governor's Career Technical Initiative is being funded to provide stronger linkages between high schools and the Community Colleges to help strengthen a pipeline of students prepared for jobs to support growing industries and meet future labor supply needs.

STRATEGY OVERVIEW

These broad needs necessitate a diverse set of programs and services to maintain California's commitment to individual and family opportunity and the State's long-term economic vitality. Central to this approach is strengthening existing partnerships, and identifying and developing new collaborations. The approach outlined for this goal bridges traditional divides between education and business, and between the Colleges' career/technical, academic, and economic development programs. Students, communities and the State of California all share the fundamental need for educational and economic development programs that provide gateways to personal and community economic success.

A collaborative network infrastructure is already in place and can be expanded with a focus on regional economies to increase the Colleges' capability to provide workforce education, training, and services that contribute to the economic competitiveness of the State. The key is to align business needs with the skills of students who are entering the workforce, workers who are transitioning from declining to growth industries, and incumbent workers needing retraining or skills enhancement to maintain or progress in their careers.

STRATEGIES

- C1 Coordination of Statewide Workforce Programs and Policies*
- C2 Career Pathways*
- C3 Curriculum and Program Development and Approval Process Improvements*
- C4 Regional Collaboration Through Multi-Agency Networks*
- C5 Defining Long-Range Economic and Workforce Trends*
- C6 Funding and Pay Equity*



The overarching goals are expanding the Community College role in regional and State economic advancement and increasing the capacity, interest, and commitment of the Colleges to high-quality career/technical education, informed by business and industry participation.

Additional career pathways in growing sectors are being identified and curricula developed to provide a skilled labor pool to meet employer needs. Meanwhile, the Governor's Career Technical Initiative is being funded to provide stronger linkages between high schools and the Community Colleges to help strengthen a pipeline of students prepared for jobs to support growing industries and meet future labor supply needs.

C1

Coordination of Statewide Workforce Program and Policies

Ensure that community college programs are aligned and coordinated with State and local economic and workforce development needs.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

The Colleges are the largest providers of workforce training in the state. The Community College system has a high stake in State policy, programs and funding related to workforce education. Currently, there are multiple workforce training programs that may or may not involve the Colleges. These include: Regional Occupational Programs and Centers, Workforce Investment Boards, adult schools and high school career technical programs, as well as incumbent worker training funded through such sources as the Employment Training Panel.

Meeting the needs of employers and the employment community, including State programs monitored through the Workforce Investment Boards, will often call for industry-specific training.

The Colleges can take the lead in coordinating programs, leveraging resources and influencing statewide policies that benefit the regional and local economy and serve a diverse student population and businesses. The EWD Program can serve as a catalyst for addressing State human capital needs by seeking collaboration.

DESIRED OUTCOME

Community College programs reflect Statewide priorities and are consistent with State policies and programs. Students' perception of the workforce education programs in the state is that of a seamless, integrated system. The Colleges and the system as a whole are viewed as leaders in economic and workforce development, responsive at the community, regional and state level.

The Chancellor's Office provides leadership in seeking federal and State resources to meet critical workforce development needs and to address changing career needs in the curriculum development process.

INITIATIVES

Develop strategies to address the following areas:

Collaboration. Improve State-level collaboration for workforce development and education programs throughout the State. Explore how college resources might be leveraged with noncredit programs, K-12, adult schools, other public workforce agencies and employers to support a market responsive, demand-driven workforce system at the State level.

Funding. Explore braided sources of funding including State and Federal grants, as well as fee-based services through the contract education delivery system. Convene policy discussion on how to ensure CTE capacity exists where needed by industry despite the higher costs of doing so.



The Health Workforce Initiative has become a premiere workforce development program in health workforce development. The initiative has been instrumental in identifying workforce development needs for the California health care industry and assisting the community colleges both regionally, and at a statewide level in securing resources for program expansion.

The roles of the centers are to:

- Develop partnerships that facilitate collaboration between the health care delivery system and education providers to respond to identified needs.
- Conduct needs assessments and job analyses.
- Develop curricula and training; and provide certification testing and referrals to health care industry employers.
- Focus the services of partnering community colleges on the critical needs of the Health Care delivery industry which is experiencing high job growth.

Past successes include:

- Development of over 500 partnerships regionally and statewide with government entities, health care organizations and providers, and community colleges also partnering with workforce investment boards across the state.
- Registered Nursing Shortage efforts and subsequent expansion of 65 community college program;
- Men in Nursing Project;
- Development and implementation of online clinical placement tools;
- Model curriculum development and dissemination –26 curricula available;
- Professional development;
- Incumbent worker training program in PC Familiarization and introduction to Windows for workers across all Kaiser Permanente facilities.



A Biotech Career Ladder

Southern California Biotechnology Center (SCBC) at Miramar. The Regional Centers of the CalABC program connect community colleges with industry needs, develop programs and customized training, and foster the skills of students and biotechnology professionals.

Through the efforts of the SCBC community colleges in southern California have expanded biotechnology programs, and obtained ARRA grants and contracts. The SCBC's successful Life Sciences Summer Institute Teacher Program has entered its sixth year and is expanding connections between educators and industry to ensure a pipeline of skilled workers for the region.

SCBC was able to leverage more than \$1,000,000 through donations of supplies, materials, staff time, and grants/contracts. SCBC also leveraged American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) funds for a Medical Laboratory Technician Training Program – an industry identified need. ARRA funds were also used to develop an accelerated Applied Biotechnology Certificate program where the first cohort of 21 participants completed the training in May 2010. Sixty percent are currently working in the industry.

C2

Coordination of Statewide Workforce Program and Policies

Create linkages between academic and career fields to provide clearly defined career pathways that encourage and support a lifetime of educational and career advancement opportunities. Build on specific pathway initiatives to improve ongoing coordination and collaboration across academic, career/ technical and economic development programs.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

In the current economy, high-wage, high-growth employers require a workforce with high levels of basic skills, as well as the ability to adapt quickly to changing and more complex technology. In a state where significant numbers of students fail to graduate from high school and many others, both in and outside the workplace, lack critical core and applied skills, community colleges as an institution need to develop new and comprehensive approaches to workforce development.

Integration of academic and career fields is one of several approaches that provide a focus for progressive education and training integrated with upward career mobility.

DESIRED OUTCOME

The Colleges work with high schools, noncredit programs, adult schools and employers to create comprehensive workforce preparation strategies encompassing core basic skills, applied academic and career technical education and ongoing educational and career advancement.

Academic, economic development and career/technical education programs are integrated where appropriate. Program integration leads to greater opportunities for student advancement in academic or career goals.

INITIATIVES

Develop strategies to address the following areas:

Best Practices. Build on existing models, disseminate best practices and develop new programs for enhancing the career pathways approach in high-wage, high-growth areas of the economy.

Ladders of Opportunity. Secure funds to implement the career ladder concepts and practices from the Board of Governors' "Ladders of Opportunity." Create strategies to align curriculum with industry, education and workforce agencies. Provide comprehensive work and career preparation that incorporates core basic skills, applied education and continuing opportunities for career educational advancement.

Create pathways for students to combine work and education by providing clear, accessible and explicit information. Effective career pathways will allow movement across educational and training programs, including K-12, Community College, baccalaureate, and graduate or professional education. The initiative will include techniques for tracking student progress.

Bridge Programs. Create new "bridge" programs to prepare low-skilled Californians to succeed in Community Colleges and access employment in high-wage, high-growth sectors. Build on partnerships with workforce, social service and adult education systems to expand the reach, scope and funding of college-centered, industry-driven career pathways program.

C3

Curriculum and Program Development and Approval Process Improvements

Ensure high standards and academic rigor in Community College programs while delivering timely, relevant and high quality offerings that meet the needs of business and industry.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

Employers and potential students must have access to timely, relevant and high-quality training programs to remain competitive in a global economy and to meet the demands of growing sectors of the economy. Providing this training is an opportunity for the Colleges to link students to career pathways and provide the benefits of wider educational offerings.

Effective programs require careful design, faculty planning and oversight, and appropriate facilities and equipment. The Colleges need to ensure that vocational and career education programs meet the same standards of quality and academic rigor that distinguish its academic programs. Business and industry value the high quality of Community College programs, and faculty are committed to maintaining these standards of excellence.

DESIRED OUTCOME

Businesses understand that the College's program development and approval processes lead to high levels of quality. The

Colleges deliver programs within a time-frame that meets employer needs. The curriculum development process is flexible to respond to emerging and changing needs. Industry participation enhances the currency and relevancy of curricular offerings.

INITIATIVES

Develop strategies to address the following areas:

Process Improvements. Increase responsive partnerships and mutual understanding between employers and the Colleges. Address the interest of business in non-traditional program formats and shortened development cycle times in ways that are consistent with the Colleges' quality standards. Increase the general awareness of the Colleges as providers of high-quality workforce education and training. Develop strategies to address the currency and relevance of programs and courses, including an adequate number of full-time faculty for curriculum development, while recognizing the value of practitioners. Consider existing best practices.

Outreach and Participation. Increase industry participation in the design and development of curriculum. Develop internal strategies to improve communication between occupational programs, the EWD Initiatives, and contract education programs.





Olympus America's National Service Center in San Jose has recently been named one of the Top Workplaces in the Bay Area for 2010

The DeAnza College Center for Applied Competitive technologies (CACT), through a Responsive Training Fund grant has been working closely with Olympus since June 2009 to improve process in their production and repair lines involving about 300 employees, and played a key role in helping Olympus America Inc., to achieve productivity gains, financial goals, and attainment of QCD (Quality, Cost, and Deliver) business metrics. In addition, the organization was able to add nine employees between August 2009 and June 2010. A Key benefit through CACT efforts was to provide a systematic approach to a Continuous Improvement transformation. Training, workshops, and project teams were used to execute this transformation. Grant resources were leveraged to strengthen employee engagement and promotion of Lean production principles.

C4

Regional Collaboration Through Multi-Agency Networks

Encourage and support Community College initiatives to collaborate with other economic and workforce development agencies and industry sectors to develop regional partnerships and networks.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

The Colleges play a vital role in economic development in their communities at the local and regional level. Community Colleges routinely collaborate with employers and other agencies to develop programs for workforce development. But a broader engagement is needed in collaborative networks involving the K-12 system, regional occupational programs, business, industry, labor, and a range of state, municipal, non-profit and county agencies that are engaged in economic and workforce development.

Regional collaborations provide greater leverage of available resources, are responsive to local needs and can have a greater ability to respond to short- and long-term workforce education needs at the state and regional level. While successful models of regional collaboration exist in many districts, San Bernardino County and the Bay Area have particularly strong regional collaboration and multi-agency networks.

While multiple organizations, agencies and business partners operate in large urban areas, in rural areas Community Colleges are often the only institutions that lead economic development, education and training. With supportive state policies,

rural Community Colleges can become more effective in serving their regions. However, they face many challenges, such as their small size, large service area, students with lower educational attainment and lower expectations, and an economy that offers fewer opportunities for highly educated workers.

Regional collaboration in rural areas can achieve greater economies of scale and may include state agencies for education, welfare, economic development, workforce training, community development and regional planning.

DESIRED OUTCOME

Community Colleges are actively engaged in diverse regional economic development networks that support business and industry needs, extend the resources of the Colleges, build internal capacity and develop institutional mechanisms to address regional economies.

INITIATIVES

Develop strategies to address the following areas:

Best Practices. Identify and disseminate best practices for coordination, information sharing and collaboration on local, regional and statewide economic and workforce development. Identify best practices in the System's EWD program, existing regional consortia and advisory committees.

Partnerships. Promote regional multi-agency networks and partnerships.

C5

Defining Long-Range Economic and Workforce Trends

Build on the California Community Colleges' Economic Development Initiatives to define and develop emerging career clusters. Ensure that the Colleges have access to the tools and resources needed to track and respond to long-term economic and workforce trends.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

Identifying long-range economic and workforce trends is critical to anticipating the needs of the economy in both the near and distant future. When trends are identified early, the Colleges and its partners can plan for future needs.

Economic trend analysis is routinely conducted at the national, state and local levels by agencies such as the Department of Finance, Employment Development Department, Economic Strategy Panel, chambers of commerce, city and county economic development agencies and other public and private entities. However, these are often not appropriate to guide a Community College response.

Although local trend data analysis is accessible to many Community Colleges, regional and global trends relevant to economic and workforce development at the Colleges are not well understood across all districts and colleges. Furthermore, much of

the available data is at a macro level and needs to be put into the context of Community College response.

The System's Workforce and Economic Development (WED) Division is conducting environmental scanning annually to help the Colleges meet the economic and workforce development needs of their respective communities.

In addition to data analysis, the EWD Program supports staff, curriculum, equipment and other resource development.

DESIRED OUTCOME

The Colleges have a long-term view of economic and workforce development in their region and the state. The Colleges have access to systemwide capacity to identify and plan for emerging workforce needs and strategic opportunities in high growth, high demand industries that are critical to the local, regional, or state economy.

INITIATIVES

Conduct ongoing scans of local, state and regional economic trends to anticipate workforce development needs to community colleges in regional economic and workforce development networks to improve alignment of career pathways.



C6

Funding and Pay Equity

Ensure that resource allocation mechanisms equitably address infrastructure and staffing needs of critical programs.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

Community College career technical programs vary significantly in terms of resource needs such as infrastructure and staffing. The current resource allocation mechanisms do not recognize this distinction. For example, nursing programs have higher laboratory costs and lower faculty-student ratios, but they are funded at the same level as other offerings. Rural community colleges have smaller class sizes and therefore higher costs per student.

Current faculty salary, placement and advancement schedules favor education credentials over professional experience. While this policy is geared towards academic programs, career technical programs often recruit practitioners from the field who bring current experience but who may not have the same academic credentials as the faculty teaching in general education programs. The Colleges are challenged in providing competitive compensation for these practitioners in high-demand programs.

DESIRED OUTCOME

Specialized programs have the resources they need to provide quality education, adequate staffing and infrastructure. The Colleges have the flexibility to allocate resources to meet unique funding and staffing needs for high-priority programs.

INITIATIVES

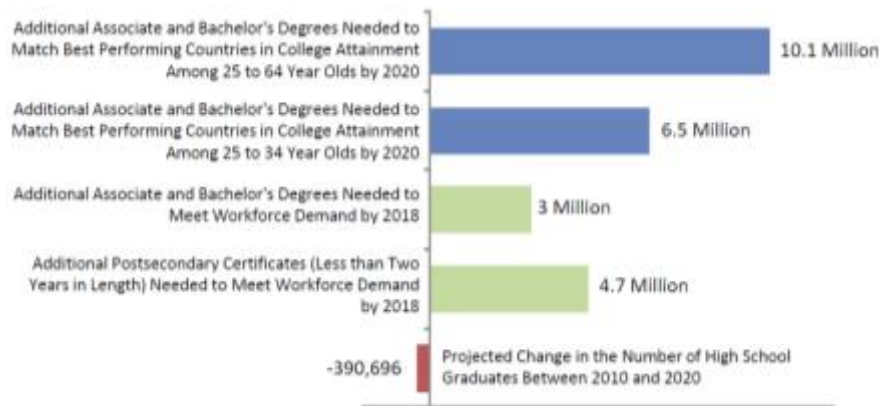
Develop strategies to address the following areas:

Funding. Improve resources for specialized high-cost occupational programs. Develop collaborative partnerships that encourage industry to take a more active role in equipment and facilities development. Explore innovative ways in which regional, state or national industries can support the development of system infrastructure, facilities and services.

Pay equity. Address pay inequity of faculty and practitioners, especially for high-demand programs.

Figure 6

INCREASING THE NUMBER OF ADULTS COMPLETING COLLEGE CREDENTIALS IS CRITICAL FOR REACHING KEY NATIONAL GOALS, SUCH AS INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS AND MEETING EMPLOYERS' WORKFORCE NEEDS



Source: National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce, and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

SYSTEM EFFECTIVENESS

Improve system effectiveness through communication and coordination, regulatory reform and performance measurement.

Goal D

BACKGROUND

Increasing the effectiveness of the California Community Colleges as a system of higher education will improve student success. By creating an effective process for strategic action, the system can advocate for policy and funding improvements to support open access, high-quality education. Some of the most powerful classroom-level benefits can only be achieved by improving the position of the Colleges in State law, for example: enhanced funding, greater flexibility and structural improvements to the system's relationship to the K-12 school system and other higher education segments. Other important improvements can best be identified by taking a statewide perspective within the system such as identifying effective college pedagogical practices for dissemination across the State.

The strategies in this section will increase the system's effectiveness through existing bilateral and participatory governance. The Board of Governors and local boards of trustees ensure that local college circumstances and needs are effectively addressed.

STRATEGY OVERVIEW

The strategies in this section will improve the system's capacity to advocate on behalf of students' needs. The Chancellor's Office will focus more of its attention on facilitating dialog and collaboration across the Colleges and constituencies. The goal is to share best practices and focus the systems' energies on the strategic issues of greatest benefit to students. This will include facilitating an

ongoing dialog to reach agreement on essential systemwide priorities. Another capacity enhancement is to assess whether system regulations can be modified (without removing any important guidelines or safeguards) when they impede adopting new solutions. The plan will also focus attention on leadership and professional development as foundations for ongoing improvement and identify opportunities for resource sharing across districts and colleges.

The Colleges must be able to take credit for success and identify areas for improvement to system effectiveness. The Plan includes implementation of an accountability reporting system, and an effort to identify new ways to quantify the range of benefits received by students. Establishment of a Student Success Scorecard so students and the public can track the effectiveness of colleges over time. These efforts will ensure that the Colleges continue to be seen by the public and policy makers as meeting students' needs. The Plan focuses directly on external relations as a key means for ensuring awareness of the needs of Californians and the benefits provided by the Colleges. Reaching beyond the Colleges, the Plan calls for a broad coalition of civic, governmental, and business leaders to join together in advocating for the full spectrum of education needed to support California's development as a vibrant and equitable state. Implicit in all of the strategies in this Goal is the role of technology, which offers great potential for improving planning, communication and resource management in operations at the College, District and statewide levels.

STRATEGIES

- D1 Accountability Reporting*
- D2 Comprehensive Measures of Success*
- D3 Analytical Capacity for Measuring Success*
- D4 System Office Roles and Functions*
- D5 Selective Regulatory Reform*
- D6 Resource Sharing*
- D7 Leadership and Professional Development*
- D8 External Relations*
- D9 Coalition for Higher Education*
- D10 Accreditation*
- D11 Ongoing and Collaborative Strategic Planning*

D1**Accountability Reporting**

Implement the Accountability Reporting system developed by the System Office in response to AB 1417.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

AB 1417 charged the Board of Governors with providing recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor for a workable structure for annual evaluations of college-level performance in meeting statewide educational outcome priorities. After an extensive internal and external outreach effort, the Board of Governors submitted recommendations to the Legislature and Governor in March 2005.

The framework provided the necessary information to State policymakers and local Community Colleges that would, over time, lead to improved instruction and related programs for students. The framework recommends four performance categories: degrees, certificates and transfer; vocational, occupational and workforce development; basic skills and English as a Second Language; and participation rates. These metrics were reported at the college and the system level, starting in 2007.

DESIRED OUTCOME

The Colleges have a workable structure for the annual evaluation of college-level performance in meeting statewide educational priorities.

INITIATIVES

Implement the success measurement framework developed in 2005 by the System Office in response to AB 1417.

In its commitment to increase transfer and degree and certificate attainment, the California Community Colleges Board of Governors has established a performance measurement system that tracks student success at all 112 community colleges.

This scorecard represents an unprecedented level of transparency and accountability on student progress and success metrics in public higher education in the United States. The data available in this scorecard tell how well colleges are doing in remedial instruction, job training programs, retention of students and graduation and completion rates.

With data reported by gender, age and ethnicity, colleges, students and the public can also better determine if colleges are narrowing achievement gaps, which is vitally important for our students and our state's economy.

The SSTF sought to improve upon the system that came to be known as Accountability Reporting for the Community Colleges. The new report is called the Student Success Scorecard.

STUDENT SUCCESS TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.2** In collaboration with the Chancellor's Office, districts and colleges will identify specific goals for student success and report their progress towards meeting these goals in a public and transparent manner.
 - 7.3** Implement a student success scorecard.
-

D2 Comprehensive Measures of Success

Develop additional measures of success based on student outcomes and the unique role of the Colleges in providing open access, lifelong learning and career exploration opportunities.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

The Colleges are subject to an array of accountability metrics, but the data generally does not lead to improved student outcomes and may in some cases lead to perverse unintended effects. For example, a number of students enroll in Community Colleges to meet their short-term educational and career goals and have no intention of completing a degree or certificate. While a low completion rate among community college students is clearly an issue that needs to be addressed, intermittent college attendance may actually be the goal of many students. The AB 1417 performance framework does not capture these outcomes as successes. The Scorecard will provide more information in some of these areas.

DESIRED OUTCOME

The Colleges define and measure success factors that appropriately reflect their unique role, especially regarding students who

transition frequently between education and the workforce. Accountability structures are streamlined, as is appropriate to a self-governing sector of higher education. Local flexibility is balanced with statewide requirements for measuring educational quality.

INITIATIVES

Develop strategies to address the following areas:

Appropriate measures. Identify measures of success that recognize and quantify the unique contributions of the Colleges and are appropriate to its multiple missions. Identify streamlining proposals that increase the use of the information gathered and decrease the administrative and resource requirements. Address unique student demographics (older, working, low preparation, with children, first-generation) that influence attendance and the time needed to attain goals.

Models. Examine accountability systems used at Community Colleges in other states, and at the University of California and the California State University.

STUDENT SUCCESS TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.4** The state of California should develop and support a longitudinal student record system to monitor student progress from elementary through postsecondary education and into the workplace.

D3

Analytical Capacity for Measuring Success

Enhance the research and analysis capability at the Chancellor's Office to support the Colleges and the Board of Governors in tracking performance, planning and budgeting, and in policy.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

While some colleges have effective research capabilities, many small colleges rely on the Chancellor's Office for their analysis needs. Budget cuts have resulted in a major reduction in staffing at the Chancellor's Office, constraining the ability of the entire Community College system to analyze and respond to emerging needs and issues.

DESIRED OUTCOME

The Colleges and the Chancellor's Office have the research and analytical tools and the resources needed to support system functions.

INITIATIVE

Ensure that adequate resources are available in the Chancellor's Office for building appropriate analytical capacity for analyzing educational trends, researching best practices and evaluating system performance.



D4 Chancellor's Office Roles and Functions

Support the Chancellor's Office in its role as an advocate and a facilitative leader of the Colleges.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

The Chancellor's Office is the administrative branch of the California Community College system. It provides leadership and technical assistance to the 112 Community Colleges and 72 Community College Districts in California. It is also responsible for allocating State funding to the Districts and for ensuring compliance with State laws and regulations. The Chancellor's Office operates under the direction of the Board of Governors, which sets policy and provides long-range planning and guidance to the Chancellor and Chancellor's Office staff.

As an agency of State government, the Chancellor's Office is subject to control by the Department of Personnel Administration and the Department of Finance. This limits the Chancellor's Office's ability to respond to changing conditions, especially in areas of economic and workforce development. The lack of autonomy is unlike the Chancellor's Office's public higher education counterparts.

DESIRED OUTCOME

The Chancellor's Office has the ability to facilitate collaborative solutions to challenges and opportunities facing the Colleges and to carry out its regulatory function without unduly burdening the Colleges. The Chancellor's Office ensures that resources support State priorities.

INITIATIVES

Build on the recommendations of the Agency Review completed in 2004 to develop the role of the Chancellor's Office as an advocate and facilitative leader for the Colleges as a self-governing sector of higher education:

- Facilitate the development of the Colleges' shared strategic agenda.
- Enhance the Chancellor's Office's capacity for strategic analysis.
- Advocate for innovation.
- Facilitate regional collaborations across Districts and Colleges.
- Collect and disseminate best practices.
- Ensure the continuation of policies and methods of measurement that foster statewide education quality, access and fairness.
- Pursue new resources to fund systemwide priority needs.

This initiative was continued in the SSTF report.

STUDENT SUCCESS TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1** The state should develop and support a strong community college system office with commensurate authority, appropriate staffing, and adequate resources to provide leadership, oversight, technical assistance and dissemination of best practices. Further, the state should grant the Community College Chancellor's Office the authority to implement policy, consistent with state law.

D5**Selective Regulatory Reform**

Identify targeted areas to reform in the Education Code and Board regulations.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

Many statutes and regulations governing the system are based on legitimate concerns or goals, but some may be duplicative or contradictory. There is also concern that specific laws and regulations limit the flexibility, autonomy, effectiveness and efficiency of the Colleges.

DESIRED OUTCOME

Statutes, regulations and administrative practices serve a valid public purpose, do not impose unnecessary burdens on the Colleges, and support efficiencies within the Colleges, especially in targeted areas critical to achieving the goals of the Strategic Plan.

**INITIATIVES**

Identify select areas for statutory or regulatory change that will support the efficiency and effectiveness of the Colleges. A selective policy review will target statutes, regulations and administrative practices and procedures for improvement, focusing on areas where changes are needed to implement the Strategic Plan.

D6 Resource Sharing

Encourage collaboration and networks across districts and colleges.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

There are opportunities to improve access and success for students by increasing the collaboration across the Colleges and between the Colleges and the Chancellor's Office.

Regional collaboration currently takes place in some aspects of career technical program delivery, especially with regard to programs requiring specialized, high-cost equipment.

Regional collaborations can lead to sharing information and best practices, and development of coordinated approaches to engage the Colleges' partners, such as the adult schools, K-12, four-year institutions, and business and industry. Opportunities for cost savings can be achieved through combined purchases of large volume or high-cost items.

A specific issue relates to the movement of employees between Districts, and between Districts and the Chancellor's Office. Current policies and regulations can create disincentives to staff movement, which can reduce opportunities for people with field experience to provide useful information and perspective to the Chancellor's Office, for Districts to learn from one another, and for the Districts and the Colleges to benefit from Chancellor's Office staff.

Another area for collaboration is the articulation and alignment of curriculum and assessments among the Colleges. Lack of alignment could create barriers for students who seek to move to another community college or enroll in multiple colleges.

DESIRED OUTCOME

Districts and colleges collaborate in regional networks to expand information sharing and leverage resources to improve student success.

INITIATIVES

Develop strategies to address the following areas:

Collaboration. Explore opportunities for regional collaboration to share information, staff, resources, facilities and effective practices. Potential areas for collaboration include curriculum alignment (based on student learning outcomes), sharing of best practices and resources, and collaborating on regional economies.

Flexibility. Promote policies that allow flexibility for faculty, staff and administrators to move within the College system.



D7

Leadership and Professional Development

Support learning and growth opportunities to enhance the skills and competencies of all College, District and Chancellor's Office employees.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

Based on the complex and evolving array of educational and service needs facing the Colleges, there will be a continuing need for a major commitment to all aspects of human resource development. There are three broad needs:

Leadership Development. As existing leaders in the system retire, the Colleges need to invest in developing new leadership from within the system. Compliance with accreditation standards and participatory governance places a special premium on high-level communication and consensus building skills, in addition to traditional management skills and leadership competencies. Furthermore, current laws, policies and local collective bargaining agreements regarding compensation, benefits and tenure constitute barriers to faculty moving into administrative positions.

Professional Development. Ongoing professional development is critical to high quality instruction and services. Faculty and staff are most effective when they are supported in developing progressively more sophisticated competencies. The professional skills needed are also evolving with the changing demand in the workplace. Faculty and staff must demonstrate sensitivity to and serve an increasingly diverse student population.

Technology. Other areas of this Plan address technical infrastructure needs, recognizing that faculty and staff need adequate training to use technology to its fullest potential. Leadership and professional development need to address both the pedagogical uses of technology and also the many administrative and student service areas where technology can support the effectiveness of the Colleges.

DESIRED OUTCOME

The Colleges and the System Office have the resources and the structural capability to provide adequate professional and leadership development opportunities.

INITIATIVES

Develop strategies to address the following areas:

Training. Provide pedagogical training for faculty, leadership training for staff and faculty at all levels, programs to recruit and retain quality staff and faculty, and programs to support technology use and innovation (e.g., faculty and staff release time). Evaluate appropriate ways to build faculty and staff capacity to serve a diverse student population.

Legislative Change. Consider legislative changes that encourage movement of faculty, staff and administrators within the system in leadership positions.

STUDENT SUCCESS TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Community colleges will create a continuum of strategic professional development opportunities, for all faculty, staff, and administrators to be better prepared to respond to the evolving student needs and measures of student success.
 - 6.2 Community colleges will direct professional development resources for both faculty and staff toward improving basic skills instruction and support services.
-

D8 External Relations

Improve the visibility and positive awareness of the Colleges and the system.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

Public and stakeholder perception of the role and success of the Colleges is uneven. Among the general public, there is wide-spread support for the Colleges as an important gateway for educational opportunities. However, many perceive other postsecondary institutions such as the UC and CSU as their first choice, with the Colleges serving only a secondary role. Public policy makers similarly tend to focus on UC, CSU and baccalaureate degrees. Community Colleges can do more to improve their reputation as institutions of quality higher education.

The Colleges are most often known for their transfer role, overlooking their substantial role in workforce education, lifelong learning and basic skills. There is an opportunity to position the Colleges for greater visibility and influence in the policy arena and public perception.

DESIRED OUTCOME

The Colleges are perceived as a quality higher education institution among the general public and external partners, including other segments of education, public agencies and the legislature.

INITIATIVES

Develop strategies to address the following areas:

Messaging. Enhance the Colleges' effectiveness in conveying strategic messages to the Legislature, the public, and the media. Capitalize on the positive image of Community Colleges with the voting public—as seen in opinion polls and local bond elections—to mobilize support for enhanced funding.

Outreach. Provide information to industry, the Legislature and the general public about how community college education provides civic, social and economic benefits.





D9 Coalition for Higher Education

Support a coalition of leaders from all sectors of California to enhance access to higher education.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

Completion of some postsecondary education is a requirement for workforce success. Flexibility in moving within the contemporary economy is increasingly a component of on-the-job success. In California's knowledge-based economy, this need is particularly acute in traditional high-tech fields, but also in service and manufacturing sectors that rely on automated systems and computerized information management. The emerging fields of biotechnology, nanotechnology and alternative energy, as well as new applications in information technology, will only increase the premium placed on an effective educational system.

While the need for an effective higher educational system is great, many of the issues described throughout this plan are not well understood by policy makers or the public. The growing demand for education and the challenges of K-16 articulation have not resulted in greater public policy attention, support or change.

DESIRED OUTCOME

The general public and policy-makers recognize the role of higher education in supporting California's economic and social health, resulting in increased levels of policy innovation and funding. There is increased public awareness of the need to coordinate the State's educational institutions to increase success of students and the State as a whole. The Colleges, as the largest provider of postsecondary education, participate in a broad coalition of civic, education and governmental leaders supporting expanded access to higher education.

INITIATIVES

Develop strategies to address the following areas:

Expanded Access. Maintain a "common voice" advocating for higher education in the State and championing the expansion of access to the Colleges.

Statewide Policy Agenda. Work with a coalition of civic, business, education, labor and governmental leaders to build and foster an effective statewide policy agenda to expand access to higher education.

D10
Accreditation

Support the colleges in their efforts to fully meet accreditation standards and eligibility requirements at all times and to incorporate these standards and eligibility requirements into the ongoing work of the colleges to insure student success and institutional effectiveness focusing on the institutional mission, student outcomes and achievement data, integrated planning, and resource allocation.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

Regional accreditation provides assurance that institutions are meeting quality standards and that institutions achieve their stated educational mission. In addition, regional accreditation is intended to stimulate and support institutional improvement.

Regional accreditors maintain compliance with federal laws and U.S. Department of Education (USDE) associated regulations and are required to monitor institutional compliance with those laws and regulations. USDE regulations have increased efforts to improve program integrity for its Title IV financial aid funds. Those regulations now include, among others, setting institutional standards, assignment of credit hour, review of distance education, and a close look at the institution's fiscal condition.

In recent years, an increasing number of California community colleges have been placed on accreditation sanction (for areas such as program review, fiscal stability and management, and role of the governing board). Although the system Chancellor's Office has no direct involvement in the accreditation of individual colleges, once a college is sanctioned—especially at the most severe level of "Show Cause"—the Chancellor's Office often must intervene to support the college in meeting the required accreditation standards in order to continue state financial support of the affected institution.

DESIRED OUTCOME

California community colleges must maintain regional institutional accreditation in order to assure the public of academic quality and institutional effectiveness, as well as to ensure that students can access federal financial aid.

INITIATIVES

Develop strategies to address the following areas:

College Accreditation. All California Community Colleges maintain regional accreditation.

D11

Ongoing and Collaborative Strategic Planning

Develop and maintain a shared vision for the Colleges.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

Many governmental and professional organizations share collective leadership of the Colleges. It is in the interest of students and the State of California for these groups to develop stable, efficient and mutually agreeable governance and consultative arrangements that allow identification of substantive issues and solutions. The system as a whole suffers when its constituents are not aligned with statewide priorities.

DESIRED OUTCOME

The Colleges have a well-defined, shared vision, and the system's leaders present a consistent message to legislators, State officials and the public in advocacy of the Colleges' role in the State's future.

INITIATIVES

Develop and maintain a consistent strategic agenda for the Colleges:

Common Goals and Messages. Work with the leadership entities of the California Community Colleges, within the existing bilateral governance structure, using participatory processes to identify common goals and messages.

Participatory Governance. Develop mechanisms that promote and encourage true bilateral and participatory governance. Work with leadership groups to create feedback mechanisms to ensure that all segments of the Colleges are working in a coordinated way and are appropriately represented in the decision-making processes for which they have local and system-level responsibility.



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Provide enhanced resources and allocation methods to ensure high-quality education for all.

Goal E

BACKGROUND

Financial resources have a fundamental impact on student success. The importance of funding will increase as both the level and type of education that residents need are dramatically affected by the demographic changes projected for the next 20 years. Students will increasingly require higher levels of support and intensive basic skills education, and enrollments will soar in the Inland Empire, the San Joaquin Valley, and the Sacramento metropolitan area. California's prosperity will depend on its investment in human and social capital.

STRATEGY OVERVIEW

The Plan includes strategies to improve and optimize the College's resources and guide the allocation of resources. Plan goals will serve as overall system budget guidelines, ensuring that resources reflect shared priorities. Resources will be assessed to provide additional access and quality improvements. The Plan will provide a rationale to advocate for additional resources to meet state needs: requests for additional funding will be made in reference to priority needs and investments. The Colleges will investigate optimizing and sharing resources internally, and the system's fee policy will be assessed.

STRATEGIES

- E1 Alignment of Budget Priorities with System Strategic Plan*
- E2 Resource Diversification*
- E3 Funding for Increased Access and Student Success*
- E4 Resource Optimization*
- E5 Fee Policy Review*

Expanded and Diversified Funding

The Colleges have achieved several notable successes in expanding and diversifying the resources to support student access and success:

- \$250,000 in federal funds for the System Office Applied Competitive Technologies Program
- Enhanced State and federal funding to help the Colleges' train more nurses
- \$20 million in new funding to support articulation between the colleges and K–12
- \$400,000 in federal funding for electronic K12-CCC transcript exchanges and enhanced video access for rural students
- Over \$1.5 million in funding from The James Irvine Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors for the development and initial implementation of Student Success Initiative Recommendations
- Over \$39 million from The Bernard Osher Foundation for a statewide permanent scholarship endowment for students on a path to completing their education
- \$14 million from Dr. Norman Levan to Bakersfield College for student scholarships and educational programs
- \$4 million from Robert Westerbeck to Pasadena City College for student scholarships

E1

Alignment of Budget Priorities with System Strategic Plan

Existing resources are leveraged to implement the initiatives identified in the System Strategic Plan.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

The Strategic Plan defines a shared agenda for the California Community Colleges, presenting overall goals and priority strategies for the entire system. The Plan guides development of annual system budgets.

DESIRED OUTCOME

The California Community College System Strategic Plan is integrated into the planning and budgeting process.

INITIATIVE

Initiate an inclusive process to ensure that the System Strategic Plan guides the Board of Governors' annual resource allocation and budgeting process for the California Community College System and that there is a concerted effort to fund systemwide priorities.

STUDENT SUCCESS TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.2** Amend the annual Budget Act, Statute and Title 5 to fund and implement a new Student Support Initiative that encompasses the current Matriculation program, prioritizes new State Budget monies for student support, and provides resources to districts for orientation, assessment and education planning services, including counseling and advising.

E2 Resource Diversification Planning

Develop alternative sources of revenue to reduce overall reliance on State funding and maintain open access in times of state budget shortfalls.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

Proposition 98 accounts for over 75 percent of funds provided annually to the Community Colleges, resulting in an over-reliance on the state for funding its operations. State funding has not been reliable in the past. The Proposition 98 statutory split has been suspended each year since 1991–92, shortchanging the Community Colleges by almost \$3 billion, cumulatively.

While the state has the primary responsibility for adequately funding the Community Colleges, resource diversification can supplement State funding and provide long term stability to Community College operations. The Colleges have already developed some of the capacity to deliver these resources in part, through State and local foundations, industry partnerships and grants.

The Colleges have also successfully raised funds for the construction of new facilities through local bond measures.

While there is wide variation among Districts, overall, local funds account for about 14 percent of total system revenues. These revenues are substantial contributions and more can be done at the local level to ensure resource diversification and enhancement. However, while local bonds provide construction funds, they do not provide operational and maintenance funds—a significant concern for the Community College system.

In terms of raising funds for specific programs and services, California Community Colleges have made significant progress over the past several years in raising the bar on philanthropic and private funding efforts. There have been numerous historic gifts made in the last five years alone to the system or individual colleges or districts, signifying a shift in the fundraising capabilities of the California Community Colleges. There remains opportunity, however, to provide colleges with resources and funding that would further grow capacity to attract and diversify funds to help colleges maintain open access and restore services in a time of diminishing public resources.

DESIRED OUTCOME

Resources are flexible, consistent with desired educational outcomes, stable and diversified. The Colleges increase the overall resources available to maintain and enhance their missions. Districts and Colleges are able to offset some operational costs through local resources.

INITIATIVES

New sources of funding. Develop non-State resources to improve the ability of the Colleges to meet the needs of students and the state. Pursue foundation grants, federal funding, industry partnerships, contract education, private giving and local parcel taxes.

Capacity-building. Work with the Foundation for the California Community Colleges to attract funding and diversify revenue streams for systemwide initiatives, and to collaborate with district and college foundations to support efforts to improve fundraising capacity with the goal of improving local resources in support of high quality education.”

E3

Funding for Increased Access and Student Success

Ensure that the Colleges receive their share of State resources to fulfill the primary mission of providing open access and ensuring student success.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

Budget constraints in recent years have affected all sectors of public higher education in California, especially the Community Colleges. Beginning in 2009-10, more than a half million California residents were “turned away” from the Community Colleges due to reduced number of courses caused by budget cuts. Service reductions greatly reduce the Colleges’ ability to fulfill their primary mission of open access.

The ongoing divestment in public higher education speaks to the need to not only work to secure the California Community Colleges’ stature in public funding, but also to identify alternative funding sources that help Colleges fulfill their mission. Supplemental funding is also needed to assist the System and individual colleges as they seek to jumpstart activities and initiatives that lead to greater student success and achievement.

DESIRED OUTCOME

State funding for the Colleges is reliable, predictable and fully meets growing student needs for quality higher education in California. Funding reflects the Colleges’ unique role.

INITIATIVES

Develop strategies to address the following areas:

State funding. Advocate for adequate state funding levels to meet California’s needs for postsecondary education, including restoring the Colleges’ statutory share of Proposition 98 funding. Develop policy proposals to stabilize funding and increase predictability.

Outreach. Identify and advocate for funding the initiatives in the Strategic Plan. Work proactively to educate members of the legislature about system priorities.

New sources of funding. Work collaboratively with the Foundation for California Community Colleges to identify and secure alternative revenue sources that support the System’s efforts to ensure student success, particularly as it pertains to the student success strategy adopted by the Board of Governors as a result of the work of the Student Success Task Force.

Invest in a student support initiative. The state and the community college system should set as a top priority for additional state funding the investment in a new Student Support Initiative.

E4
Resource Optimization

Ensure that existing resources are used efficiently, protecting taxpayer investments and meeting State priorities.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

The size of the system provides unique challenges for coordination among Districts, Colleges and statewide System partners to enhance efficiencies, as well as opportunities for collaboration for resource sharing.

DESIRED OUTCOME

The Colleges benefit from the size of the system, deriving efficiencies and sharing resources. The Colleges have flexibility in using the resources that meet their needs and ensures student success. The Colleges are not burdened with unfunded mandates from the Legislature.

INITIATIVES

Develop strategies to address the following areas:

- Convert lower priority credit courses to community services offerings.
- Use resources more effectively.
- Explore ways to provide flexibility in the use of resources.
- Collaborate with the Foundation For California Community Colleges and its College Buys program to expand upon existing consortia purchasing opportunities and to leverage the buying power of the 112 colleges.
- Consider coordinated systemwide approaches to achieve cost savings in appropriate areas, with a focus on shared services amongst Districts and Colleges.

STUDENT SUCCESS TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1** Encourage categorical program streamlining and cooperation.
-

E5

Fee Policy Review

Address the Community College fee policy as it relates to student access, system revenue and financial aid policy.

NEEDS AND ISSUES

The Colleges have the lowest enrollment fees in the nation and the highest participation rates (defined as enrollment per 100,000 people). However, Community College students also pay many other mandatory and optional fees and the cost of living in California is higher. Enrollment fees collected do not stay within the institution and represent only a small proportion of system revenue (typically about 5 percent). Increased fees do not translate into a proportional increase in revenues for the Colleges.

DESIRED OUTCOME

The Colleges' fee policy is equitable and protects its historic commitment to open access. Planned fee adjustments are gradual, moderate and predictable, and complemented with an adequate financial aid package.

INITIATIVES

Develop strategies to address the following areas:

Fee policy. Develop a fee policy proposal coordinated with student aid and State appropriations and consistent with the goal of providing access to affordable education.

Additional fees. Look at other fees students pay in addition to enrollment fees and develop a consistent and simplified approach to student costs that takes into account the overall impact that fees have on students.



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The California Community Colleges are equal opportunity institutions