



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

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Student Success Act of 2012 Clears Key Legislative Committee *Landmark legislation authored by Sen. Alan Lowenthal will implement key California Community Colleges Student Success Task Force recommendations*

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott today praised the California State Senate Education Committee for passing legislation that would help implement recommendations of the Student Success Task Force, which developed strategies to improve completion rates at California's 112 community colleges.

Authored by the committee's chairman, Sen. Alan Lowenthal (D-Long Beach), the Student Success Act of 2012 (SB 1456) would direct critical support services to students beginning their community college educational experience to increase their prospects for success.

"I want to commend Sen. Lowenthal and his staff for this vitally important bill that will help the community colleges to focus on student success," Chancellor Scott said. "The task force spent almost a year putting together 22 recommendations that will guide reform in our system and increase the number of students accomplishing what they set out to do when they enroll. The Student Success Act of 2012 will help our students earn degrees and certificates more quickly, improve transfer rates to four-year universities and allow us to better help students needing job training skills."

In September 2011, the task force recommended that community colleges become more responsive to the needs of students and the economy, which is increasingly demanding college-educated workers. The recommendations rebalance priorities to focus on the core missions of remedial education, workforce preparation, certificate and degree attainment and preparation for transfer to four-year colleges and universities. Among the key recommendations was for students who make progress toward meeting their goals to be rewarded with priority enrollment, and for colleges to adjust course offerings according to the needs of students based on their education plans.

The Student Success Act of 2012 would:

Give students the tools they need to succeed. All students would be required to eventually participate in a diagnostic assessment to ensure placement in the appropriate courses, receive an orientation and develop an education plan to guide them toward completion of their education program. This would put students on a clear path as they begin their community college education.

Increase transparency and close the achievement gap. The legislation would require colleges to post a “student success score card” on their campus web sites as a condition for receiving student success and support funds. This tool would highlight the progress campuses make on a select number of key indicators of student success. The information would be provided by ethnicity to ensure that completion rates improve for all students.

Use technology to help students and create greater efficiency. The bill would require colleges to use a system-wide online common assessment on their campuses once it is made available. Not only would this system generate savings, it would allow students to use their test results at any community college in the system. Currently, students can be required to take a new assessment when enrolling in another college.

Encourage students to focus on success. The legislation **would** create incentives for students to identify their educational goals, take and pass the courses needed to complete a program and make academic progress in order to continue to receive a fee waiver.

"While many students are getting through the door at our community colleges, many fail to get across the finish line. Fifty-four percent of all community college students fail to earn a certificate, associate degree or transfer within six years of attending a community college," Sen. Lowenthal said. "This situation is unacceptable by any measure and demands immediate change. SB 1456 is an important first step in realigning our community college system to the goals of student success and achievement."

To read more on the Student Success Task Force, go to <http://bit.ly/qy7qMA>

The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation composed of 72 districts and 112 colleges serving 2.6 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, basic skills education and prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions. The Chancellor's Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. For more information about the community colleges, please visit <http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/>.

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