



# CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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## CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

### **MEDIA STATEMENT**

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### **California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott and Sen. Alan Lowenthal Praise Group Representing 2.6 Million Students for Endorsing Student Success Act of 2012**

*SACRAMENTO, Calif.* – California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott and state Sen. Alan Lowenthal, D-Long Beach, today praised the Student Senate for California Community Colleges for formally supporting Lowenthal's Senate Bill 1456, also known as the Student Success Act of 2012. The bill will implement strategies to increase graduation and completion rates at the state's 112 community colleges.

"I am pleased that the senators who represent our approximately 2.6 million students support this landmark piece of legislation, which will help students reach their educational goals on time and narrow the achievement gap for historically under-represented students," Scott said. "The Student Success Act of 2012 will increase certificate and degree attainment, improve transfer rates to four-year institutions and allow us to better serve students needing job training."

Scott and Lowenthal noted that a broad coalition of students, business leaders, and social justice organizations support these important changes and have come together in support of the SB 1456, which would provide critical student support services to students on the front-end of their educational experience to enhance their prospects for success. The bill was approved last week by the state Senate on a 35-1 vote and now moves to the Assembly.

"While many students are getting out of the starting blocks at our community colleges, more than 50 percent fail to get across the finish line within six years," 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."

Kevin Feliciano, president of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges, said that if the Lowenthal bill is adopted "students will be able to more easily navigate through colleges, making transfer and/or entrance into the workforce a more seamless process."

Specifically, the bill would:

- Target student success and support funds for assessment, orientation, and education planning services and authorize the Board of Governors to establish policies that eventually require students to complete these services and provide for exemptions when necessary.

- Require that campuses participate in a common assessment system and post a student success campus score card as a condition for receiving student success categorical funding; and
- Establish an eligibility requirement for the Board of Governors Fee Waiver that requires students to meet academic progress standards, as defined by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. The bill specifies that the new requirement will not be implemented until students receive adequate notification, and information is provided about available support resources. The bill also specifies that SB 1456 will be phased-in over a reasonable period of time as funding allows.

Read the full letter of support from the Student Senate for California Community Colleges: <http://bit.ly/JF5yKo>.

*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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