



PRESS RELEASE

June 4, 2012

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California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott and California State University Chancellor Charles B. Reed Laud First Students to Graduate with New Joint Transfer Degrees
Community College graduates with the new degrees are guaranteed admission to California State University

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott and California State University Chancellor Charles B. Reed today praised the first group of graduates who have been awarded Associate in Arts for Transfer (AA-T) and Associate in Science for Transfer (AS-T) degrees in a variety of disciplines and who now are headed to California State University campuses to earn their bachelor's degrees.

"That transfer guarantee was the clincher," said Erik Duane, who graduated May 12 from Norwalk's Cerritos College with an associate degree for transfer in speech (AA-T) and learned about the new transfer degree from one of his professors. "I was ignorant to the possibilities of what the transfer program could do for me. But now I'm on my way."

Duane has already been accepted to California State University, Long Beach, in the fall and is one of more than 1,500 California community college students with the new degrees who have been admitted to a local CSU campus.

"My counselor told me about the new program and since I already had enough units in the classes I needed I qualified for the new degree," said Jazmin Tovar, who graduated May 26 from Redwood City's Canada College with an AS-T degree in early childhood education. "I'm glad I did it because programs at the CSU are so impacted right now, the AS-T degree (guarantees my admission)."

Tovar said she missed the CSU application deadline for the fall 2012 semester but will likely attend San Francisco State University in the spring of 2013 because that campus offers a bachelor's degree in her major.

The Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act (SB 1440, Padilla) became law in 2010 and requires the California Community Colleges and California State University to collaborate on the creation of AA-T and AS-T degrees. Upon completion of these degrees, students will be guaranteed admission to a CSU campus with junior standing. While not guaranteed admission to their campus of choice, students will be given priority consideration for admission to a CSU campus that offers a program that has been designated as "similar" by CSU. Once enrolled at CSU, students will be able to complete a Bachelor of Arts or Science degree with no more than 60 additional units.

“The California Community Colleges and the California State University system have been working very hard and with great cohesion to get this Associate Degree for Transfer program up and running and this year we are seeing the first graduates, the pioneers if you will,” Chancellor Scott said. “As a result of deep cuts in state funding, CSU has severely restricted admissions for the spring 2013 term to nine campuses and will only admit California community college transfer students who have an associate degree for transfer (AA-T or AS-T).”

Scott noted that all 112 community colleges have received Chancellor’s Office approval for at least two associate degrees for transfer and several colleges have many more. He said colleges are working toward the goal of having AA-T and AS-T degrees approved by fall of 2013 in 80 percent of the majors for which model curricula have been developed and 100 percent of majors by fall of 2014.

“The California State University welcomes the first group of graduates who have taken advantage of this new transfer pathway to begin the next leg of their educational journey,” Chancellor Reed said. “This is a program that will truly benefit California. Getting more degree-holders into the workplace helps build our state’s economy, and that’s a good thing for all of us.”

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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To learn more about the Associate Degree for Transfer program visit <http://bit.ly/tzLmVO>. The SB 1440 website can be viewed at www.sb1440.org.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Please contact Paige Marlatt Dorr to schedule a one-on-one interview with Chancellor Scott or to identify students in your area who received the new associate degree for transfer (AA-T or AS-T) and are moving on to a California State University campus.