



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

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California Community Colleges Chancellor Scott lauds Long Beach College Promise as Model for Improved Alignment Between K-12 and Higher Education *Local initiative in line with Student Success Task Force recommendations, chancellor says*

LONG BEACH, Calif. – California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott today met with education leaders in Long Beach to discuss the successes of the Long Beach College Promise, saying the program can serve as a model for improved collaboration between kindergarten through 12th grade and higher education, a key recommendation of the California Community Colleges Student Success Task Force.

During a news conference at Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo High School for the release of a Long Beach College Promise progress report, Chancellor Scott said that other parts of the state can look to Long Beach as an example.

“Four years ago, the Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach City College and California State University, Long Beach, got together and said that students would have greater opportunities to complete their higher education goals by working together to make sure those students and parents knew exactly what they had to do in order to reach those goals,” Chancellor Scott said. “The Long Beach College Promise is exactly what the task force had in mind when it recommended that the K-12 system and our community colleges increase collaboration and improve student readiness for college.”

The Student Success Task Force recently recommended that the community college system work closely with the California State Board of Education and the state superintendent of public instruction to better define standards for college and career readiness for graduating seniors. Doing so would reduce the need for remedial classes taken at community colleges, which would then help those students reach their educational goals on time.

The Long Beach College Promise is an extension of the Long Beach Seamless Education Partnership, which was created in 1994 and became a national model for its efforts to provide better continuity for Long Beach students from preschool to graduate school. By aligning academic standards, teaching methods and student assessment across the K-12 district, community college and state university the partnership has improved student success and teacher quality.

Created on March 20, 2008, the Long Beach College Promise helps local students prepare for, enter and

succeed in college by ensuring that they progress smoothly through the education systems and into the workforce. The College Promise program covers the cost of first-semester fees for students enrolling at Long Beach City College directly after graduation and guarantees Long Beach Unified School District graduates admission into California State University, Long Beach as long as they have completed minimum CSU requirements.

“We thank Chancellor Scott for his support of the Long Beach College Promise and applaud his efforts to strengthen partnerships between K-12 and California’s higher education systems,” said Long Beach City College President [Eloy Ortiz Oakley](#). “The results of the partnership between Long Beach City College, Cal State Long Beach, and Long Beach Unified School District show the tremendous potential that improved alignment has for other communities throughout California.”

Also attending the news conference and handing out scholarships to a group of eighth graders was California State University President [F. King Alexander](#) and Long Beach Unified School District Superintendent [Christopher J. Steinhauser](#).

The trio of education leaders presented the College Promise progress report that showed that 74 percent of Long Beach Unified School District graduates are pursuing a post-secondary education within a year of graduating, and half of those students are enrolled at Long Beach City College or California State University, Long Beach.

The report also shows:

- Fall 2011 enrollment of Long Beach Unified School District graduates into Long Beach City College increased to 1,675 despite state funding cuts that have curtailed course offerings at the community college.
- Long Beach City College students from Long Beach Unified School District continue to be much more likely to persist in college. Long Beach Unified School District students’ persistence dramatically outpaces the persistence rate of students entering from other high schools.
- Since the launch of the College Promise, California State University, Long Beach transfer students from Long Beach City College are retaining at a higher rate than nonlocal community college transfers that are admitted under more rigorous criteria.

The [California Community Colleges](#) is the largest system of higher education in the nation. It is composed of 72 districts and 112 colleges serving 2.6 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, basic skills courses in English and math, and prepare students for transfer to four-year colleges and universities. The Chancellor’s Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

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