

## **2008 State Legislative Program**

### **Approved by the Board on January 14, 2008**

#### **College Awareness and Access**

- School-to-College Bridge Program
  - New bill to develop legislative framework (BCP)
- Online Instructional Materials (AB 577 (Ruskin) and a BCP)
  - Support current legislation -two-year bill
- Inmate education
  - Support current legislation SB 413 (Scott) - two-year bill
- Expand Access to Pell Grant and Other Financial Aid (BCP)
  - Placeholder for potential new bill to develop legislative framework

#### **Student Success and Readiness**

- Concurrent Enrollment – Support and sponsor AB 1409 (Portantino)
  - Extend provisions that expire in 2009 - established by AB 967 (Canciamilla, 2005) and SB 1303 (Runner, 2006)
  - Seek sponsorship - work with Assemblymember Portantino and the Department of Finance
- Textbook Relief – Placeholder for potential new legislation
  - Placeholder for potential new bill to develop legislation based on recommendations from the system
- Early College Assessment
  - Continue supporting SB 946 ( Scott), a two-year bill (BCP)
- Transfer Initiative
  - Placeholder for potential new bill to develop legislative framework

#### **System Effectiveness**

- Field Act Process Relief – Sponsor legislation
  - Continue efforts for process relief, and support SB 588 (Runner)

## **College Awareness and Access**

### **School-to-College Bridge Program**

The School-to-College Bridge program is an innovative new program, modeled on a successful, locally-developed program by Victor Valley College and its feeder high schools. The program assumes that all students, regardless of whether their goal includes entering the workforce or obtaining an academic degree, should apply to a postsecondary institution before leaving high school. The program creates partnerships between community colleges and their feeder high schools and middle schools, and represents an innovative approach to connecting high school students to community colleges as well as other institutions of higher education, with the goal of increasing academic preparation of high school graduates for college. The Task Force was supportive of the proposal/concept, but recommended that any sponsored legislation should provide a general framework and should not be too prescriptive. Legislation should be drafted to establish goals and provide a framework for implementation. The CIOs/CSSOs may have best practices worth reviewing and a survey may be needed.

### **Online Instructional Materials**

Open education resources are learning materials whose copyrights have expired or have been released with an intellectual property license that permits their free use by others for non-commercial educational purposes without the permission of the original author or creators. These items include textbooks, streaming video in classroom lectures, tests and software. These resources provide free alternatives to traditional classroom materials, such as textbooks, which are requiring an increasing share of community college students' limited budgets. Establishing online instructional resource centers to promote development of these materials could help increase access and reduce the cost of educational books and materials (AB 577- Ruskin).

### **Inmate Education**

Credit instruction at state correctional facilities is currently funded at the noncredit rate except for courses provided through distance learning. This funding structure is a disincentive to provide inmate education by many community colleges. The Board supports SB 413 (Scott), a two-year bill that would authorize credit funding at state correctional facilities for credit courses. The bill also permits prison facilities to offer closed access courses to inmates. Providing inmate education would help reduce recidivism, and support the Governor's prison reform efforts.

### **Expanding Access to Pell Grant and Other Financial Aid**

Significant progress has been made in increasing the number of students receiving financial aid since community colleges were provided dedicated funding for financial aid administration in the 2003-04 budget. However, there remains a need for additional resources targeted to assisting students and potential students with completing and submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and to process, document eligibility, award and disburse grants and other financial aid. In addition to funding, legislation may be necessary to support efforts to expand access to financial aid.

## **Student Success and Readiness**

### **Concurrent enrollment**

Support/sponsor AB 1409 (Portantino) or related legislation. AB 1409 would authorize community college districts to provide secondary school pupils with the opportunity to benefit from advanced scholastic, career-technical vocational work, or other coursework at a California Community College campus. SB 1303 (Runner, 2006) authorized exemptions from the 5 percent summer enrollment cap for credit courses related to transfer, courses that are part of a sequence of vocational or career technical education courses leading to a degree or certificate, and courses that are necessary to assist a pupil who has not passed the California High School Exit Examination. At a minimum, we need to pursue extending the sunset date of these provisions because without the passage of AB 1409 in 2008, these exemptions expire on January 1, 2009.

### **Textbook Relief**

The high cost of textbooks affects the affordability of educational opportunities for our students. The Board of Governors supported SB 832 (Corbett) and took a watch position on AB 1548 (Solorio). The Governor signed AB 1548 and vetoed SB 832. Implementation of AB 1548 may not result in cost savings, and system efforts are underway to review and analyze the cost of textbooks. These potential recommendations may require legislation, and so a spot (placeholder) bill may need to be sponsored.

### **Early College Assessment**

The Board supported SB 946 (Scott), which would establish the Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program for the purpose of providing eleventh grade pupils with an early indication of their readiness for college-level English and math. SB 946 (Scott) would move the system forward toward accomplishing one of the goals in our system's Strategic Plan.

### **Transfer Initiative**

Community college transfer rates to four-year institutions continues to be a high priority. Community colleges are working to streamline the transfer process and may need legislation to support these efforts.

## **System Effectiveness**

### **Field Act Process Relief**

For several years there have been efforts to address inefficiencies in the plan-check review process. Delays result in increased costs due to the price escalation of building materials. SB 588 (Runner) is a two-year bill supported by the Board that seeks to improve the plan-check review process. System Office staff continues to seek administrative solutions and have provided technical assistance on SB 588. The Task Force supports efforts to reduce costs, improve efficiency and maintain safety standards.