



California Community Colleges

SYSTEM WEBINAR SUMMARY (June 2023): Equitable Entrance into Guided Pathways

The webinar focused on ways to create equitable opportunities for students to enter specific academic and career pathways via the Guided Pathways framework, including through dual enrollment and improvements to CCC Apply. The new Chancellor, Dr. Sonya Christian, provided opening remarks to share some related systemwide priorities.

What are Some Key Priorities of the New Chancellor?

- The system has been engaged in numerous reform efforts in recent years, including Guided Pathways, the Student-Centered Funding Formula, College & Career Access Pathways (CCAP), the Rising Scholars program, development of baccalaureate degrees, and the Road Map. The state has made significant investments to help us implement these efforts. While the state is now facing a budget deficit, we must remain committed to systems development and implementation of these reforms with fidelity and at scale.
- We have seen a 48% increase in Associate Degrees for Transfer, but only an 18% increase in actual transfers to CSU. The significant gap relates, in part, to administrative barriers in the applications process and deficiencies in our technology infrastructure that must be addressed.
- As we look forward to 2030, we must recommit to the *Vision for Success* and the Road Map, including our work to increase equity. Equity in access requires that we focus on dual enrollment, particularly for first-generation and low-income students. The wait for students to finish high school before coming to our colleges is a structure of privilege. Only 14% of high school seniors are engaged in dual enrollment, and **there are equity gaps. We must commit to the governor's call to action** that more students graduate with at least 12 college credits by providing students with access to our classes and appropriate support services beginning in the 9th grade.
- In looking at our enrollment challenges, we must be focused on persistence. New enrollments are important, but keeping existing students engaged and enrolled through to completion of a certificate, degree, or transfer is critical. We must also expand access for justice-involved Californians and adult learners, ensuring that we have on-ramps to well-structured career pathways that meet their needs while addressing **California's workforce needs**.

What are Some Levers to Create Equitable Pathways to Baccalaureate Degree Completion?

- *Dual Enrollment: Beginning the Path in High School*
 - Dual enrollment participants are more likely to graduate high school and to enroll in and complete college. It is a particularly effective strategy for low-income and first-generation students and for young men of color.
 - Dual enrollment is a value proposition for the state and for families, reducing the cost of college while accelerating degree completion.
 - We can meet the goal of more high school graduates with 12 or more college credits completed by:
 - Focusing on equitable representation of student subgroups;
 - Providing college credit opportunities and a college-going identity to those who may not otherwise attend college;
 - Using dual enrollment as a student success strategy, not just an enrollment strategy;
 - Streamlining the enrollment process;
 - Offering courses strategically and in ways that are aligned with pathways, and providing appropriate supports; and
 - Monitoring key performance indicators to assess and improve.
- *Reimagining Our Front Door: Transforming CCC Apply*
 - Over the past 6-8 months, we have been preparing to transform the front door experience for our students by:
 - Analyzing the current system and documenting needed improvements, comparing it to 13 peer systems;
 - Conducting interviews with key stakeholders;
 - Assessing application questions to identify improvements; and
 - Holding meetings of a short-term working group of the Consultation Council to develop a high-level roadmap for transformation.
 - To develop a welcoming “front door” to all, we will:
 - Focus on improving the user experience, balancing equity concerns, and preventing fraud;
 - Use innovative approaches to address challenges and opportunities; and
 - Create an intuitive, inclusive and secure experience that provides a best-in-class first impression to every student.

Save the Date: DEIA in Action

- Join us for the inaugural Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Institute, September 21-22, 2023, The Westin San Diego Gaslamp Quarter!