

ENHANCING COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT SUCCESS AND SENSE OF BELONGING THROUGH AN EARLY SOCIAL BELONGING PROGRAM

EQUITY ACCELERATOR



California
Community
Colleges

Join us to boost student success at your college through our evidence-based social belonging program! Partner with Equity Accelerator (EA) for a transformative 2-year opportunity where we'll first learn about your students' college experiences and then adapt and implement a belonging program with a demonstrated history of enhancing students' sense of belonging and improving learning and success.

WHO WE ARE:

[Equity Accelerator](#) (formerly the [College Transition Collaborative](#)) has a **proven track record** supporting institutions in the implementation of evidence-based policies and practices that promote equity, belonging, growth, and academic success. With the support of the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, **Equity Accelerator is offering an adapted, evidence-based belonging program to enhance students' experiences and outcomes at your institution.**

HOW OUR PROGRAM FOSTERS STUDENT BELONGING:

Our program transforms students' perception of their belonging in college. Challenges during the college transition, from low exam scores to loneliness, can affect students' sense of belonging and motivation. Historically disadvantaged students are particularly vulnerable to concerns about fitting in and succeeding. To address these concerns and close equity gaps, **our evidence-based program helps students understand that initial belonging worries are common and diminish with time, effort, and effective strategies.** With this mindset shift, students engage more with their social and academic environment, leading to increased persistence and higher achievement.

EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF THE SOCIAL BELONGING PROGRAM:

The social belonging program has helped **thousands of students** across a diverse array of colleges and universities, consistently reducing academic achievement gaps between historically advantaged and disadvantaged groups¹. A comprehensive study of its implementation in 22 diverse four-year institutions, recently published in [Science](#), showed that our social belonging program **improved first year full-time enrollment**, especially among students in groups that had historically progressed at lower rates and in settings where students had more opportunities to belong². In another recent study, our social belonging exercise **raised continuous enrollment** over 2 years by 9 percentage points among socially disadvantaged students at a broad access four-year university³.

Now, EA is ready to work with CA community colleges to deliver and test the social belonging program at their campuses. **This work will provide schools with valuable information on the psychological experiences of their students and options for boosting student success and equity.**

¹Brady, Cohen, et al., 2020; Murphy, Gopalan, Carter, Emerson, et al., 2020; Walton & Cohen, 2007, 2011; Walton, Logel, et al., 2015; Walton, Murphy, Logel, Yeager, Goyer, Brady, Emerson, et al., 2023; Yeager, Walton, et al. 2016

²Walton, Murphy, Logel, Yeager, Goyer, Brady, Emerson, et al., 2023

³Murphy, Gopalan, Carter, Emerson, et al., 2020

This is a great opportunity for collaboration if your institution...

1. is interested in working with EA to bring an evidence-based social belonging program to your students to improve their experiences and academic success.
2. has the capacity to engage fully in the facilitation of research activities:
 - a. **Fall 2023 - Spring 2024:** institutions collaborate with EA to recruit students for initial research activities (e.g., digital surveys).
 - b. **Summer 2024 - Fall 2024:** institutions collaborate with EA to facilitate the delivery of program materials and a follow-up survey to matriculating students.
 - c. **Spring 2025:** institutions provide requested administrative student-level data on course enrollment and performance.
3. is interested in receiving resources to support administrators who want to learn more about addressing students' belonging concerns.

THIS OPPORTUNITY IS PROVIDED AT NO COST TO YOU:

The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office has invested in EA's Community College Belonging Project as a professional development/technical assistance resource being provided at no cost to individual campuses. This opportunity is made possible by the California Community College Equitable Placement, Support and Completion funding established by the 2022 Budget Act.

To apply to be a part of this opportunity, please complete the application below.

[APPLY HERE](#)

Deadline to Apply: September 15, 2023

Questions? Contact katie@accelerateequity.org

Applicants will be asked to provide the following:

- Brief description of current institutional resources/initiatives aimed at supporting student success and sense of belonging
- Brief description of any institutional knowledge about existing opportunity gaps between different groups of students at your college

This opportunity is being offered via a collaboration between the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and Equity Accelerator.

A key part of Equity Accelerator's mission is to create higher education learning environments that foster equitable student outcomes by bridging psychological research and practice - learn more [here](#).

