



California Community Colleges

SYSTEM WEBINAR SUMMARY:

LEADING WITH EQUITY, HBCUs (February 2024)

This [webinar](#) focused on Black student success and the system's partnership with Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs) as a strategic priority for improvement. Guest presenters included [Shakerra Carter](#) of San Diego College of Continuing Education, and Presidents [Ashanti Hands](#) of San Diego Mesa College, [Roslyn Artis](#) of Benedict College, [Denise Whisenhunt](#) of Grossmont College, and [Rochelle Ford](#) of Dillard University.

How is Black Student Success Critical to Meeting Our Goals?

- [Vision 2030](#)'s goals of increasing equitable baccalaureate attainment and expanding access to and success in STEM fields for underrepresented students are dependent on supporting the success of Black students in our system.
- HBCUs provide supportive educational environments for Black students that elevate positive racial identities, support successful outcomes, and accelerate economic mobility. They have played a significant role in producing Black professionals, including 70% of doctors and dentists, 50% of lawyers, and 40% of engineers, making transfer partnerships with these institutions a critical strategy for meeting system goals.
- Partnerships with HBCUs can create a pipeline of recruitment, training, mentorship, and support for HBCU students to return as faculty and administrators in our system, accelerating progress toward the more representative workforce needed to maximize success for our Black students.

What is the HBCU Transfer Pathway Partnership?

- The [partnership](#) began in 2015 through system-level agreements with nine HBCUs. There are now nearly 40 HBCU partners, including alignment of some Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADTs) to their baccalaureate programs.
- All CCC students have access to these aligned pathways, allowing students to move from one of our colleges to an HBCU through clear pathways. ADT earners and those with at least 30 transferable units and a GPA of 2.0 are guaranteed admission to a partner HBCU.
- [Program](#) benefits include acceptance of completed transfer courses, free application, priority consideration for housing, transfer counseling, and consideration for transfer scholarships for students with a 3.2 or higher GPA.

How Are Colleges and HBCUs Working to Advance Baccalaureate Attainment for Black Students?

- Community colleges can ensure that information about these partnerships is available to students via counselors and transfer centers, student support programs like Umoja, and various transfer and outreach events.
- Given the substantial distance between our colleges and HBCU campuses, intentionality and alignment are critical to supporting Black students to transfer to these institutions. For example, [Benedict College](#) has [partnered](#) with Fresno Unified School District on dual enrollment and is looking to formalize transfer agreements with Fresno area colleges to streamline transition of students in ways that ensure they feel welcome and embraced, which is so critical to their success.
- Supporting students to understand options for making transfer to an HBCU affordable is a critical role for colleges. HBCUs often have lower tuition costs than many other private institutions and out-of-state public institutions. All federal financial aid can be used at HBCUs, and [AB 1400](#) recently expanded the use of targeted Cal Grant funds to be used in providing one-time grants of up to \$5,000 to students attending partner HBCUs beginning in 2024-25.
- HBCUs partner with industries and employers to provide opportunities for meaningful internships, job shadowing, and job placement for their students. For example, Benedict College has a significant [focus on internships](#), including a recent collaboration with Silicon Valley companies to provide paid summer internships that include stock options, helping to give work-based learning experiences to students and contribute to a more diverse technology workforce.

What Resources Can Support Colleges to Work with HBCUs?

- A [webinar](#) from 2021 summarizes the HBCU transfer partnership (login to the Vision Resource Center required).
- The annual [HBCU Caravan](#) brings representatives of partner HBCUs to CCC campuses to promote transfer opportunities for our students.
- The annual [Black College Expo](#) provides opportunities for students to meet with college representatives.
- The [Pipelines to Possibilities](#) (P2P) program supports HBCU graduate students to come (or return) to our system as CCC faculty and staff. Its professional development series involves facilitated virtual workshops for faculty mentors and HBCU interns.
- The [Nandi](#) annual conference will take place in San Diego on October 3-4, 2024, supporting Black women professionals and students in community colleges.
- The [CCC to HBCU summit](#) will take place in Charlotte, NC on June 11-14, 2024, fostering collaboration between CCCs and HBCUs.