



California Community Colleges

SYSTEM WEBINAR SUMMARY (Nov. 2023): Vision 2030: A Focus on Equity in Support

This webinar was the fourth in a series focusing on [Vision 2030](#), covering issues related to equity in providing student support and providing an update on student loan repayment options. Guest presenters included Sameer Gadkaree and Michele Shepard of The Institute for College Access & Success ([TICAS](#)), Amanda Marshall and Anne Capcap of Mission College, and Pamela Sepulveda of Cerritos College.

How are We Shifting the Paradigm on Student Support?

- The longstanding approach in our system has been to wait for students to apply for and access the various support services we offer, an approach that favored students with more knowledge who could take the initiative to access them. We must move to a more proactive approach that brings tailored services to students in need.
- Vision 2030 prioritizes getting services to all students who qualify and need various support services through a student-centered support ecosystem, including:
 - Ensuring that students who qualify for federal Pell grants apply and receive them, and that we maximize use of the California Promise Grant.
 - Deepening our partnerships with counties and other organizations that provide social safety net services to help students access those services.
 - Integrating and packaging our campus services so that students are not burdened with complex processes for seeking and accessing various supports.

How are Colleges Increasing Equity in Support Services?

- Mission College has adopted a comprehensive one-stop application for all student services, called the [Mission Support Form](#).
 - The form allows students to apply for most “[student success communities](#),” such as CalWORKs, TRIO, MESA, Puente, Umoja, and NextUp.
 - Use of the form reduces the need for staff referrals and limits the need for students to repeat their stories/needs. Students apply once, with all program staff accessing the information and collaborating to meet student needs. Faculty now have one place to refer students to access services.
 - The form is based on Formstack but is integrated with a dashboard that can pull in data students already provide in other places like CCCApply, allowing the college to shorten the application. Marketing the form includes a widely used QR code and links to the form on numerous campus web pages.
- Cerritos College is partnering to increase its capacity to support [basic needs](#) by:

- Linking students to the basic needs center through multiple paths, including forms related to housing, mental health, and early alerts.
- Increasing case management staff capacity by partnering with the local graduate schools of social work to hire seven social work candidates as interns who are integrated into [Success Teams](#). The cost of hiring and overseeing the interns is greatly outweighed by enabling more personalized and comprehensive services for students.
- Leveraging efforts of local organizations, such as getting food from local stores and food banks and joining CSU Chico on a CalFresh Outreach grant.

What Resources Can Help Us Increase Equity in Support?*

- The new [Equitable Hiring Practices Curriculum](#) reviews equitable hiring practices designed to increase the diversity of college faculty and staff (log-in required).
- The [Equity-Centered Counseling Foundations](#) training covers the fundamentals of equitable and effective counseling to better serve our diverse students.

What are New Options for Student Loan Repayment?

- After 3.5 years, the federal pause on student loan payments has ended. Interest began accruing again in September and payments started coming due in October. The Supreme Court [struck down](#) the Biden Administration’s plan for broad-based student loan forgiveness, so the Department of Education is pivoting to enact strategies to minimize the impact on former students, particularly those with low incomes, low loan amounts, or who did not finish college.
 - Repayment “on-ramp”: From October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024, borrowers who miss payments will not be reported to credit bureaus, placed in default, or referred to debt collection agencies.
 - New [SAVE Repayment Plan](#): Like other income-driven plans, the SAVE Plan bases monthly payments on income and family size (replaces REPAYE Plan). New benefits include changes to the payment formula that reduce payments for most borrowers, no additional interest charged if payment does not cover accruing interest, exclusion of spousal income for borrowers who are married and file taxes separately, and a reduction to maximum repayment term particularly for those with low amounts borrowed.
 - Updates to [Public Service Loan Forgiveness](#): New rules will include counting more types of payment and deferment toward forgiveness, simplifying rules for qualifying employment, and formalizing a reconsideration process when applications are denied. Each month of the pandemic payment pause counts toward PSLF as if payments had been made. These updates are in progress so changes to individual accounts are continuing.

*Must log in to the Vision Resource Center to access these links