



PRESS RELEASE

January 9, 2011

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California Community Colleges Board of Governors Approves Student Success Task Force Recommendations, Sends Report to State Legislature

Chancellor Scott thanks board as reform plan to increase graduation, certificate, and transfer rates clears another hurdle

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott today thanked the board of governors for adopting the critical Student Success Task Force reform package that has been a year in the making. The recommendations, Scott said, will go a long way in improving student graduation, certificate and transfer rates at the system's 112 colleges. The plan, which was approved without a dissenting vote, will be sent to the state Legislature for review in accordance with Senate Bill 1143 (Liu).

The task force's recommendations will make community colleges more responsive to the needs of students and the economy, which is increasingly demanding college-educated workers. It is aimed at rebalancing priorities to focus on the core missions of remedial education, workforce preparation, certificate and degree attainment and transfer. Students who make progress toward meeting their goals will be rewarded with priority enrollment, and colleges will adjust course offerings according to the needs of students based on their education plans. The recommendations also will improve the student assessment process and promote better use of technology to help students reach their educational goals on time.

"I want to commend the task force for its hard work and dedication to increasing student success," Chancellor Scott said after the report was adopted by the board Monday afternoon. "This plan is historic and wide-ranging. Because of the state's disinvestment in higher education, access is being rationed at the community colleges in ways that are unfair and harm entering students. The recommendations in the report are integral to balancing priorities so first-time students have a fair opportunity to pursue their educational goals. At a time when resources are scarce, our system must implement solutions that improve student outcomes, deliver an educated and trained workforce, and ensure the efficient use of state investment in higher education – I am confident that this plan will do just that."

California Community Colleges Board of Governors President Scott Himmelstein said that the board will move forward on the adoption of regulatory changes needed to implement the task force's vision.

"This is an extraordinary opportunity to improve the educational outcomes of the largest system of higher education in the country," Himmelstein said. "With these changes, our 2.6 million students will have a better shot at success."

President Obama announced the goal to make America “the most educated country in the world” by 2020. From 2012 through 2018, occupations requiring an associate degree will grow the fastest but by 2025, California’s workforce will face a shortage of 1 million college degree and certificate holders. In 2010, then Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger approved Senate Bill 1143, authored by Carol Liu. The bill charged the California Community Colleges Board of Governors with adopting a plan by 2012 for improving student success and awarding more associate degrees and transferring more students to California State University or University of California campuses. Board of governors member Peter MacDougall served as the task force chair and Chancellor Scott was an ex officio member.

The task force released a set of draft recommendations in September and the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office and task force members subsequently embarked on a state-wide listening tour to gather input from constituencies. Those interested also could find the recommendations online and leave comments that were considered by the task force in November. After the listening tour was complete, revisions were made on several key points. Some of those revisions included not charging students full price for classes outside their educational plans and allowing colleges some leeway to exempt students under extraordinary circumstances from the 110-unit cap on Board of Governors Fee Waiver eligibility.

“This task force really worked very hard to outline a plan that will help students reach their educational goals faster and more efficiently,” MacDougall said. “We listened to input and great ideas offered by students, faculty, staff and parents from around the state and incorporated what we heard into the final draft. This was a collaborative effort and I am proud to have been a part of this historic task force.”

The board of governors now has until March 1, 2012 to submit the full report to the state Legislature for review.

The [California Community Colleges](#) is the largest system of higher education in the nation. It is composed of 72 districts and 112 colleges serving 2.6 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, basic skills courses in English and math, and prepare students for transfer to four-year colleges and universities. The Chancellor’s Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

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The Student Success Task Force final report can be viewed at:

http://www.californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/Portals/0/StudentSuccessTaskForce/SSTF_FinalReport_Web_010312.pdf

Changes made to the original Student Success Task Force recommendations based on public feedback can

be viewed at: http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/Portals/0/StudentSuccessTaskForce/SSTF_taskforcememo_111411.pdf