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State Signals Support for Students

New regulations to help community college students complete degrees and certificates, prepare for workforce

Sep. 27, 2012 – California has signaled its strong support for students seeking to complete a degree or certificate, advance their careers or transfer to a four-year institution. Senate Bill 1456, the Student Success Act, was signed into law today by Gov. Jerry Brown and new system-wide priorities were recently enacted by the California Community Colleges Board of Governors to support students with an educational plan.

With a national focus on college completion, these two measures will initiate improvements to the California Community College System to better support student success and completion. Regulation changes include priority enrollment for students with good academic standing and those with veteran, military, foster youth and disability status. Student support services will be restructured to focus on orientation, assessment and comprehensive education planning at the beginning of a student’s college education. Other improvements include common statewide assessment tools, student success scorecards to communicate progress and identify gaps, and academic standards for students who receive aid.

South Orange County Community College District Chancellor Gary Poertner remarked, “These bold reforms will help serious students achieve their educational goals more efficiently. Our nation’s ability to compete depends on our ability to educate the workforce.”

California Community Colleges have an outstanding track record of providing open access, but this has also overburdened the system with priorities. Under the mission of the California Community Colleges, defined in 1960, community colleges were to admit any student capable of benefiting from instruction.

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