Orange County Legislative Task Force

Our Mission: Trustees, Chancellors and Community Leaders Advocating for Community College Students

2008-09 State of California Issues Critical to Student Success

- Funding Equity
- Regulatory Relief
- Support Job Training
- Improve Student Transfer Options
- Accountability
State Issues Critical to Student Success

Funding Equity
College preparatory and career enhancement courses provide the skills training to revitalize communities and the economy and deserve to be among the first for positive budget review. Today there are inequitable funding rates between career development and college preparatory courses and university transfer courses. All course offerings are vital to the community college mission and should be funded accordingly.

Regulatory Relief
With a static level of funding, community colleges require regulatory relief to maintain educational quality. Modification of the law which requires 50 percent of the budget be spent on faculty salaries and benefits would provide the flexibility needed to fully support student learning. Currently, librarians, counselors, instructional materials, and other resources cannot be included in the calculation, but are critical to student learning.

Support Job Training
Support legislation and budget decisions that provide funding for vocational and technical education, particularly for costly health care and public safety programs, and ensure that community colleges are positioned to effectively train Orange County’s first responders. Community colleges provide career technical education (CTE) programs to thousands of individuals who enrich our local economy and help to keep Orange County businesses competitive.

Improve Student Transfer Options
Legislation is needed to support a more effective transfer program and the development of student major requirements that are accepted by all California public colleges and universities. About 60% of California State University (CSU) graduates and 40% of University of California (UC) graduates begin their studies at community colleges.

Accountability
OCLTF supports the Accountability Report for Community Colleges (ARCC), a legislatively mandated documentation process that includes self-study criteria and evaluates institutions on the full scope of their mission. We urge the Legislature to continue to enable local Boards of Trustees and the current system-driven accreditation process to determine student learning outcomes.

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IT PAYS TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY COLLEGES!

According to a 2005 Study by CCbenefits, Inc.:

- Approximately 272,000 students attend our colleges each year, more than 6% of Orange County’s three million residents.
- Taxpayers receive a 15% return on annual investment from Orange County’s 11 community college campuses.
- Orange County owes roughly $7.3 billion of its current labor and non-labor income to its community colleges – roughly 6.5% of a typical year’s regional economic growth.
- California benefits from Orange County’s community colleges through improved health as well as reduced welfare, unemployment and crime, saving the public almost $65 million per year.
- Orange County community college graduates enjoy a 17% annual return on investment of their time and money – earning $365,000 more during a working lifetime than those with only high school diplomas.