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## **Governor signs historic community college reform bill**

### ***This afternoon, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law SB 1456 (Lowenthal) – the Seymour-Campbell Student Success Act of 2012***

We applaud the leadership of Governor Brown in recognizing that action is what California's students need today. The Governor's signature puts student success at community colleges front and center and makes students, the colleges and the state all accountable for that success. By signing SB 1456, the Governor has ensured that despite this fiscally constrained environment, students can effectively and efficiently get through community college and be ready for the workforce.

SB 1456, the Student Success Act, contains common sense reforms. Under the bill, ALL students will receive the guidance they need to be successful through required orientation and education plans. In a historic move toward equity, colleges will be required to publicly report progress of all students broken down by race and socio-economic status. And, finally, students will have to maintain satisfactory academic performance in order to be eligible for fee waivers.

A focus on improving student success – measured by gaining a degree, certificate or transfer to a four-year institution – will open the doors of community colleges to thousands more students and send more graduates into the work force or on to higher degrees.

Students intent on successfully completing a course of study in a reasonable amount of time are being increasingly crowded out of our community colleges. This is particularly true for incoming high school graduates who cannot get the classes they need to start their educational journeys. The California Community College Chancellor's office found that for each excess unit degree or certificate seeking students do not accumulate, the community college system frees up space for 4,000 more students, saving \$7.5 million. More seats and freed up revenue are critically important today given the nearly half a million students on waitlists this fall.

The historic signing of SB 1456 is the result of years of work by Student Success Task Force, the California Community Colleges and over 100 business and community organizations who demanded that college success be on par with access.

The Campaign for College Opportunity has worked side-by-side with Senator Lowenthal and the Chancellor's office to see the Student Success Act successfully through the legislature and onto the Governor's desk today. We have been advocates of these simple but effective and cost efficient reforms

to California's community colleges that will help more students to be more successful and build our state's workforce of today and tomorrow. It is our mission to improve college accessibility, and that includes the opportunity to not just attend, but to succeed.

Today's signing puts California on an improved trajectory to remain a beacon of innovation for the world.

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***About The Campaign for College Opportunity:*** The Campaign for College Opportunity is a broad-based, bipartisan coalition, including business, education and labor leaders, that is dedicated to ensuring the next generation of Californians has the opportunity to go to college. The Campaign works to create an environment of change and lead the state toward effective policy solutions. It is focused upon substantially increasing the number of students attending two- and four-year colleges in the state and significantly impacting the rate of student success and achievement of their post-secondary education objectives. For more information, visit: [www.collegecampaign.org](http://www.collegecampaign.org).