



STATEMENT OF MICHELE SIQUEIROS  
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## **Historic policy to prioritize student enrollment at California Community Colleges approved by Board of Governors**

The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges voted unanimously today in favor of system wide enrollment priorities for students wishing to enroll in a community college.

“We applaud the leadership of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges on their historic vote in favor of enrollment prioritization. Having new system wide priorities is a game changer in how our community colleges operate. This direction from the Board of Governors helps colleges maximize limited resources for those eager students ready to pave their way toward their education goals. That not only helps students, it helps keep California strong.” said Michele Siqueiros, Executive Director.

The Board of Governors voted on priority enrollment for the entire community college system as recommended by the California Community Colleges Student Success Task Force in January. The task force recommended that the colleges adopt system-level enrollment priorities to: 1) reflect the core mission of transfer, career technical education and basic skills development; 2) encourage students to identify their educational objective and follow a prescribed path most likely to lead to success; 3) ensure access and the opportunity for success for new students; and, 4) incentivize students to make progress toward their educational goal.

Shrinking budgets and a renewed focus on improving student success and completion have colleges across the state rethinking the way in which they prioritize student enrollment. With waitlists of nearly half a million students statewide, some community colleges are developing priority enrollment processes that allow those students with a plan to transfer, earn an associate degree or vocational certificate to move to the front of the registration line. West Hills Community College District, Long Beach City College, Riverside Community College, San Bernardino Community College, Victor Valley College are a few colleges pioneering the way.

“We must be smarter with the limited resources available to our colleges and prioritizing course offerings is one way to do that. In 2011-12, more than 20,000 community college course sections were cut across California – including basic skills, transfer-level English and math, career pathway courses, and ESL – the following were still available: *Playing the Ukulele for Older Adults*; *Ceramics: An Option for Friday Night*; and *Reclaiming Joy: Meeting Your Inner Child*. California no longer has the resources to subsidize students attending community college for recreational purposes. Prioritizing enrollment for students with a goal and a plan to complete is not only smart but it is what students need and the workforce requires,” said Siqueiros.

“California will need nearly 2.3 million additional degree and certificate holders by 2025 to meet workforce demand. By prioritizing enrollment of students with a goal to transfer, earn a degree or complete a certificate that helps to fill that demand, I think our colleges can best steward the increasingly limited resources afforded us and better meet the real life needs of the many communities we serve” said Henry A. J. Ramos, Member of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors.

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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).