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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**GOVERNOR JERRY BROWN SIGNS AB 705 (IRWIN)**

***New law takes huge step toward addressing largest impediment to success in California Community Colleges; Remediation.***

Today, Governor Brown signed historic legislation that ensures more students have access to college-level courses when they start community college, substantially increasing their chances of completing a degree, certificate or transfer!

AB 705 (Irwin), sponsored by the Campaign for College Opportunity, requires community colleges to use high school performance as a factor in determining course placement for college-level math and English.

"For too long, inaccurate high stakes placement tests put students behind and stopped them from ever crossing the graduation stage. With the signing of AB 705 into law, more students will be placed directly into college-level courses and be able to reach their goals," said Michele Siqueiros, president of the Campaign for College Opportunity.

This law was introduced because more than 75% of California's community college students are being assessed and placed into pre-college level courses annually, despite evidence that many of them could be successful in college-level courses, where only 40% will earn a degree, certificate or transfer after six years.

"Our current remedial education process conflicts with California's goals for student success and wastes large amounts of human talent. AB 705 helps fix broken practices and puts into place policies guided by data and research," said Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin, the bill's author.

A broad-based coalition of community college faculty, civil rights organizations, businesses and community organizations rallied in support of AB 705. "Along with the Associate Degrees for Transfer in 2010, passage of the DREAM Act, investments in growing enrollment at our colleges and universities, Governor Brown and our legislative leaders are helping us make remarkable progress in improving college access and completion. We are on the precipice of substantially increasing the number of graduates and transfer students from our community colleges just in time to meet the needs of our economy," concluded Siqueiros.

Read more of what people are saying about this important legislation [here](#).

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***About Campaign for College Opportunity:***

*The Campaign for College Opportunity is a California non-profit research and advocacy organization focused on a single mission: to ensure all Californians have an equal opportunity to attend and succeed in college in order to build a vibrant workforce, economy and democracy. For more information, visit [www.CollegeCampaign.org](http://www.CollegeCampaign.org) / [Facebook.com/CollegeCampaign](https://www.facebook.com/CollegeCampaign) or follow [@CollegeOpp](https://twitter.com/CollegeOpp).*

