November 20, 2015

STATEMENT

University of California will add 10,000 additional spots for California students by 2018

The Regents of the University of California (UC) approved the plan presented by President Janet Napolitano and will accept 10,000 more California students across the UC through 2018. This will be funded with the $25 million allocated by the recent 2015-16 state budget and by phasing out the UC’s need-based aid for low-income students from other states.

“We applaud President Napolitano and the UC Regents for approving 10,000 more highly sought after college acceptance letters for California students. These additional spots are urgently needed to ensure more qualified in-state students can attend a UC campus,” said Michele Siqueiros, President of the Campaign for College Opportunity.

Since 1994, the number of applicants from California students applying to the UC has more than doubled. Unfortunately, the UC has not kept pace with demand and students are finding it harder to get in. Insufficient state funding and increasing competition for too few college spots means increasingly well-qualified students are nonetheless turned away. In response, the UC has significantly increased the enrollment of out-of-state and international students - which comes with big revenue benefits - while the number of California students at the UC has remained flat.

“As the demand for educated workers is at an all-time high and admission to the UC system is increasingly more difficult, a plan like this opens doors to ensure more California students have a spot at the UC,” said Siqueiros.

On November 30th the Campaign for College Opportunity will be releasing, Access Denied: Rising Selectivity at California’s Public Universities, a report which finds that today’s California high school graduates have to meet a much higher admissions bar to get into the UC than previous generations. “Accepting 10,000 more California students is a big step in the right direction. What our new report, Access Denied will illuminate is that California lacks a vision for higher education. If we want to meet workforce demand and ensure all eligible students find their rightful place in our public universities, we need to significantly expand the college seats available, ensure stable and sufficient funding, and develop a long term plan for higher education that sets benchmarks for the number of degrees our state needs while closing persistent racial and ethnic gaps. To do anything less threatens college opportunity and the economic future of our state,” concluded Siqueiros.

About Campaign for College Opportunity:
The Campaign for College Opportunity is a California non-profit bipartisan policy and research 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 / Facebook.com/CollegeCampaign or follow @CollegeOpp.