



WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT “THE STATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA – BLACK REPORT”

“The findings of *The State of Higher Education in California – Black Report* underscore the urgency of improving educational attainment for Black students, particularly here in LA, home to the largest Black community in California. A college credential or degree is the ticket to a high quality job in today’s skills-based economy and every student in Los Angeles deserves that ticket-- and our economy depends on it. This report calls on all of us to do our part to expand college access, affordability, and completion.”

Mayor Eric Garcetti
City of Los Angeles

“A college degree is key to family economic security. The *State of Higher Education in California - Black Report* shows disturbing disparities for Blacks in both entering and completing college. California needs to develop the policies and invest the resources recommended in the report to assure that Blacks enter and complete college at a higher rate, a rate on par with other major racial/ethnic groups.”

Deborah Povich, Co-Manager
Working Poor Families Project

"This report highlights the critical challenges facing Black students in California—from college access to completion. This opportunity gap has negative consequences for our state’s economy and democracy. State leaders must work together to find realistic and effective policy solutions."

Hans Johnson, Senior and Bren Fellow
Public Policy Institute of California

“This report makes a compelling case about the poor performance of California’s educational system for Black students. California is one of the few states that does not have a college attainment agenda and we need one with measurable goals by race and ethnicity, and equity-focused policies to address the opportunity and success gaps disadvantaging Blacks and Latinos. Indiana, Texas, Colorado, Oregon, and a growing number of states have adopted equity-focused college attainment agendas. A college-attainment agenda is an investment in the lives of the next generations of Californians that we cannot afford to ignore.”

Estela Bensimon, Co-Director, Center for Urban Education, Rossier School of Education
University of Southern California

"We're deeply disappointed to see how low college completion rates are among young Black Californians, particularly since we know that it takes two additional levels of higher education attainment for a young Black adult to have the same job prospects as his or her White peer today. We have much more work to do to make sure all young Californians can access, afford and complete college and we look forward to working with the Campaign for College Opportunity to tackle these racial disparities."

**Gustavo Herrera, Western Regional Director
Young Invincibles**

"We need to do better. Poverty continues to collude with low high school graduation rates and the high need for remedial education to make the journey towards college graduation very difficult for African-Americans. The result is that not enough are going to college and not enough are getting out. If we want to see meaningful change, institutions of higher learning will need to aggressively partner with school districts, community groups, businesses and labor to force the issue on better math and reading levels and making the connection between education, workforce development and family self-sufficiency. Community colleges are uniquely placed to lead these efforts, but this is a collective mission and the statistics show that the stakes are getting higher."

**Sydney Kamlager, Trustee-Elect
Los Angeles Community College District**

"***The State of Higher Education in California – Black Report*** is yet another reminder that we must do everything to address inequities in California wherever they exist. The fact that vast educational disparities are still pervasive along racial lines proves we have done too little to change outcomes for California's students. Our public schools, colleges, universities, and the state have the responsibility to respond to this important research. It is time our elected leaders address these facts with urgency."

**Ryan J. Smith, Executive Director
The Education Trust – West**

"Liberty Hill Foundation has been fighting for equal opportunities in education since our founding nearly 40 years ago, and the shocking findings of this report show not only the persistent shortcomings of college preparation received by Black students in California but also the urgent need for the scrutiny this report provides. California cannot accept the persistence of disparities in educational opportunity for Black students. Liberty Hill urges action on solutions for the policy obstacles outlined in the 2015 ***State of Higher Education in California – Black Report*** from The Campaign for College Opportunity."

**Shane Murphy Goldsmith, President/CEO
Liberty Hill Foundation**

“This report highlights long-standing inequalities that are manifesting in the higher education space. It serves as a litmus test for our tolerance for California's inertia in preparing Black children to attain college degrees. Community advocates, policy makers, and higher education leaders, this is a call to action! Our future depends on our ability to rally together around this important cause.”

**Elmer Roldan, Director of Education Programs and Policy
United Way of Greater Los Angeles**

“Schools are a reflection of what's happening to Black youth in our society. From the day a Black youth enters elementary school she or he must overcome numerous hurdles to have a fair shot at opportunity. Black students receive harsher punishments in schools, have less access to qualified teachers, and face implicit bias and negative stereotypes that affect how they are treated and how they think of themselves. This timely report from Campaign for College Opportunity shines a light on the racial disparities that plague our education system, a conversation that was happening 20 years ago and will still be happening 20 years from now if we do not take bold action together.”

**Taryn Ishida, Executive Director
Californians for Justice**