What Californians Are Saying About
“2017 California Higher Education Report Card”

“California needs a twenty-first century plan for public post-secondary education, a system that has been and must continue to be the greatest tool of economic mobility and opportunity in our state. We must prioritize investment, and accelerate collaboration among the community colleges, CSU, and UC to strengthen educational outcomes and meet the state’s workforce demands of tomorrow. This report card underscores that urgency. Our children, our workforce, and the future of our economy depend on maintaining our state’s unparalleled leadership in higher education.” - Gavin Newsom, Lieutenant Governor of California

“As a living example of the power of higher education to create limitless opportunity, I am a strong believer in prioritizing the planning and investment in California’s colleges and universities to ensure the doors of higher education remain open for all Californians. The report card released by The Campaign for College Opportunity is a stark reminder that we must address the problem of educational attainment to provide opportunities to all students regardless of race, ethnicity or zip code. Through collaboration we can send the right message to our students in telling them we care about your future.” - Antonio Villaraigosa, Former Mayor of Los Angeles

“California is at a higher-education crossroads. Investing in our students is our top priority and ensures a trained workforce and strong economy. We must give our students skills to prepare them for college and life. I rely on organizations like the Campaign for College Opportunity to make our Golden State one of our country’s most educated and prosperous states.” - John Chiang, California State Treasurer

“As a former high school teacher, I know firsthand the role that a college degree plays in personal and community empowerment and California’s universities have garnered national acclaim for their role supporting social mobility. As Chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee, I am committed to working with my colleagues, educators, students, and groups like the Campaign for College Opportunity to ensure that all students have access to a quality and affordable education.” - Assemblymember Jose Medina, Chair, Assembly Higher Education Committee

“In preparing Latinas to become more civically engaged and effective advocates on behalf of our communities, we recognize that education is the key to advancing our causes and ourselves. Regrettably, the Report Card recently released by The Campaign for College Opportunity paints a bleak picture of the status of higher education in California. Given our state’s changing demographics, it is essential for our higher education system to close the racial/ethnic gaps and ensure college is accessible and affordable for all Californians who want
to go.” - Helen Iris Torres, Executive Director, Hispanics Organized for Political Equality (HOPE)

“California’s progress on higher education has stalled. What once fueled our economy and innovation is no longer producing the number of graduates that the state will need to remain economically competitive. The Campaign for College Opportunity’s report card highlights key metrics state leaders should focus on and invest in if we are going to see further progress on higher education and maintain our economic edge as a state.” - Hans Johnson, Director and Senior Fellow, the Public Policy Institute of California Higher Education Center

"For so many Californians, the California Dream was based on hard work, dedication and an accessible and affordable college education that led to a good job. This promise helped California produce a record number of graduates that brought with them innovation, contributed to our state's growing economy, and strengthened our state's civic life. The new Report Card by the Campaign for College Opportunity tells us that the next generation needs a new college promise if we are going to remain an economic powerhouse and the hub of innovation." - Rob Lapsley, President, California Business Roundtable

“Creating pathways out of poverty starts with educating our youngest residents. Preparing students to enter college and graduate into the workforce increases our economy’s overall health. Innovation shouldn’t stop at Silicon Beach. The Los Angeles Unified School District is the largest in California. We have an opportunity to create a solution and lead the way for even more students to graduate with the tools and skills needed for success. This report should serve as more than a rally cry - it should be a call to action. Our students don’t just need help, they’re entitled to it.” - Elise Buik, President and CEO, United Way of Greater Los Angeles

“The California Report Card by the Campaign is an important tool for those seeking the state’s highest office. The results point toward the need for a statewide agenda to restore California’s leadership in providing higher education opportunity to continually fuel the state’s economy and intelligence in solving civic problems. All voters should hold those running for governor to a high standard in restoring California’s eminence in providing affordable educational opportunity beyond high school for all Californians.” - Joni Finney, Director, Institute for Research on Higher Education, University of Pennsylvania