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**STATEMENT ON FINAL 2017-18 CALIFORNIA BUDGET FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**  
**Colleges and Universities in CA receive over \$700 million boost**  
***Focus on expanding access, improving completion, preserving affordability, and equity in hiring.***

The Governor and Legislature are to be commended for passing a strong higher education budget that puts students first. This budget, which boasts slightly more than \$700 million over last year, adds more spots for California students at our public universities while ensuring more students complete college.

“On the heels of our [California Higher Education Report Card](#), this budget is a glimpse into the types of investments in college access, completion and affordability necessary to ensure 60% of all California adults have a college credential to meet our state’s workforce needs by 2025,” said Michele Siqueiros, president of the Campaign for College Opportunity.

The budget agreement includes targets for increasing enrollment at both the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) which would add spots for nearly 4,000 more California undergraduate students. A big win for prospective CSU students is the directive that the CSU develop a policy to redirect eligible applicants to nearby CSU campuses if they are denied admission to a campus or major with heightened admission requirements. The CSU is also being asked to create admissions priority for students applying to programs with heightened admissions criteria if the student lives in the local area – another win for CSU prospective students!

The budget deal also reflects a commitment to moving students through college with funding for community colleges to create clearer pathways, improve remedial education, align curriculum, and innovate. Students enrolling full time at a community college (12-15 units) will now be able to access \$50 million in grants to assist with the cost of college. The CSU received \$12.5 million to continue implementing the Graduation Initiative with clear direction to reform remedial education.

“The dual focus and investment on college access and completion by the Governor and Legislature is a win today. But this budget will not guarantee that 60% of adults will have a college credential by 2025 to meet workforce needs, maintain our prominence as the 6<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world, and close persistent gaps by race and ethnicity. The state’s investments in higher education need a goal post and that 60% goal post should have been set yesterday” said Siqueiros.

On affordability, students at private non-profit institutions can expect to receive the same maximum Cal Grant award next year and students pursuing a career technical education program can expect to see their Cal Grant award doubled.

Nearly \$6 million was allocated to the community colleges, CSU and UC to support best practices in equal employment opportunity with a required report to the legislature by December 2017 that must include the numbers of faculty disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and gender.

“When our college leaders and faculty reflect the diversity of their students, student achievement improves. A report we will release later this year holds up a mirror to the striking imbalance between the diversity of our college administrators and faculty and our student bodies. Lack of diversity amongst college leaders and faculty is bad for equal opportunity and employment and bad for student success,” concluded Siqueiros.

To read the official budget documents produced by the Department of Finance, click [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://Facebook.com/CollegeCampaign) or follow [@CollegeOpp](https://twitter.com/CollegeOpp).*