



**WHAT EQUITY LEADERS ARE SAYING
ABOUT THE STUDENT SUCCESS FUNDING FORMULA**

JUNE 2018

“This California budget creates strong incentives to make every community college in the state an avenue to a college degree, rather than a dead-end alleyway, as has too often been the historical pattern, particularly for Latino and other students of color. This budget also recognizes that California must close the education equity gap and ensure that all students, including the large and growing Latino student community in particular, are provided what they need to successfully obtain college degrees.”

Thomas A. Saenz
President and General Counsel
MALDEF

“The new funding formula reflects the imperative to help more students acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to earn a living wage and achieve economic security. Lawmakers are to be congratulated for their courage. College faculty and staff should view the reforms and increasing budget allocations as a sign of confidence in their ability to help millions of Californians rise from poverty to prosperity.”

James P. Mayer
President and CEO
CA Fwd

“Women are more likely to live in poverty than men, at every stage of life. Higher education, especially our community colleges, promise opportunities in employment and life that empower students to lift themselves, and often their families, out of poverty. The Women’s Foundation of California is proud to stand with our social justice partners and legislative leaders in supporting the Student Success Funding Formula and its focus on helping more low-income students reach their college dreams.”

Surina Khan
CEO
The Women’s Foundation

“The new student-centered funding formula exemplifies what we need more of in California - prioritizing the need to increase the success rates of marginalized students at our state’s community college. Over half of our state’s community college students are low income and students of color. Given this fact, we applaud state leaders and the countless student and civil rights groups who fought to pass this policy and put equity first. Moving forward, Ed Trust –West stands ready to work with institutional leaders, faculty, and students across the state to implement the new funding formula with fidelity. May we work together to ultimately close opportunity and achievement gaps in this generation.”

Ryan J. Smith
Executive Director, The Education Trust-West
Vice President, The Education Trust

“As open access institutions, our California Community Colleges have long been recognized as beacons of opportunity that bellowed “You belong here.” But today, Governor Brown, our state leaders and California Community Colleges Chancellor, Eloy Oakley have pledged to students that they not only belong in our community colleges, but they *can* succeed there too. College is a necessity. It is for everyone. It is for the public good. This is a historic moment for our students and our state. As equity advocates dedicated to increasing the number of low-income students who earn a college degree, we look forward to working with our state leaders to ensure successful implementation of this new community college funding formula.”

Alison de Lucca
Executive Director
Southern California College Access Network

“UnidosUS is encouraged that more Latinos in California are going to college than ever before, but troubled to see that rising college costs are making the path to a post-secondary degree a steeper climb. The student-centered funding formula is a positive step forward in providing more Latinos a shot at the American dream and helping to narrow broader wealth inequality in the process.”

Eric Rodriguez
Vice President of Policy & Advocacy
UnidosUS

“The California Community Colleges student-centered funding formula will ensure that community colleges serving our highest need students have the resources they need and the time they require to implement this monumental change,” said Gary Toebben, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce President & CEO. “Our community colleges are more important than ever, especially for students and families with limited resources. There is no doubt that increasing community college student success will have long-term benefits for California's economy.”

Gary Toebben
President & CEO
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

"This is a historic day for ALL students, leaving no one behind. Too often people of color don't have access to college, and then when they get there, they don't graduate. The passage of the Student Success Funding Formula is a Win-Win. It will allow us to continue to focus on more access to college for Black and Latinos and set goals that they graduate and graduate timely. This is when the whole community wins!"

Cassandra H.B. Jennings
President and CEO
Greater Sacramento Urban League

"We applaud the new funding formula as a significant reform that's indicative of California's higher education system becoming more responsive to the needs of underrepresented students. Since 2014, California Competes has called for our state to prioritize its neediest students in its funding formula. This reform represents the spirit of that change. We are optimistic that the new formula will help address some of the wide fluctuations we see in student success by race, ethnicity, and income. California's students deserve nothing less."

Lande Ajose
Executive Director
California Competes

"I am encouraged by the passing of the student-centered formula because it demonstrates a commitment by our state leaders that it is time to invest in the unique needs of its students, especially those students who have had the greatest difficulty achieving degrees and certificates. We are also confident that our California community colleges are better positioned now than they have ever been to achieve ambitious degree completion and transfer goals, especially in light of revolutionary policy reforms like AB 705. California is on its way to a stronger, more diverse and educated society and workforce."

Lena Carew
Director
Students Making a Change

"The current system of funding community colleges based on enrollment has not served the most vulnerable students in California adequately. As the only economic development organization in the Inland Empire, our mission is focused on advancing and supporting policies that improve the lives of our citizens, especially those who are underrepresented and underserved, so that our economy remains strong. The student-centered funding formula will provide our local community colleges with the much-needed resources to increase college access and degree attainment. This is good news for our state and we are confident that this will lead to a growth in economic opportunities for the Inland Empire's 4.6 million residents. "

Paul Granillo
President & CEO
Inland Empire Economic Partnership

"United Way applauds this intentional policy to advance equitable spending for all students in L.A. County. We stand united to ensure that students, especially those in underserved neighborhoods, have access to the supports and resources they need to achieve the academic requirements for a college degree and a career."

Elise Buik
President and CEO
United Way of Greater Los Angeles

"As advocates for families from all backgrounds, Families In Schools supports a "student-centered" funding formula. This is about seeing more students of color succeed than in the past. It's about addressing the needs of underrepresented students and ensuring they are successful in meeting their educational goals. There is nothing groundbreaking about supporting struggling students with additional resources. The student-centered formula would not only assist underrepresented students gain access to community college, but will also improve their futures."

Oscar E. Cruz
President and CEO
Families In Schools

"California's 114 Community Colleges are vital to the development of a workforce equipped for the 21st Century global economy. Unfortunately, too many students of color are failing to complete their post-secondary education. The success of all students, especially the most vulnerable population, is essential for a healthy, sustainable California economy. By meeting the varying needs of all students – from transfer and career technical students to those requiring education in basic skills - California community colleges are unique in their ability to fill the education gap between high school graduates and certificated or degreed job candidates. The Orange County Business Council applauds state leaders for recognizing this and moving towards a community college funding formula that prioritizes student success, incentivizes colleges to improve outcomes, and closes equity gaps."

Lucy Dunn
President and CEO
Orange County Business Council

“The student-centered funding formula is imperative to the success of our most underserved students in the LA region and across the state. The vast majority of Latino students graduating from K-12 enroll into their local community college, where inequities persist. This funding formula is a critical investment to address these inequities and provide the resources our students need to ensure their college success, pursue their dreams and meaningfully contribute to California’s economy and civic life.”

Nadia Diaz Funn
Executive Director
Alliance for a Better Community

“The new funding formula is a critical shift in the way we measure success for the largest community college system in the nation. We particularly value the prioritization it places on equity and closing the achievement gaps for our students of color across California.”

Gustavo Herrera
Western Regional Director
Young Invincibles

“Today, California acted bravely to keep the promise of higher education alive for our most vulnerable and historically underrepresented college students. With the passing of the student-centered funding formula in the state budget, our community colleges will now prioritize student success and receive additional funding to support students aiming to reach their higher education goals. Everyone, regardless of their background, deserves a fair shot to attain a quality higher education and this new funding formula will provide that opportunity to thousands and thousands of community college students across this great state.”

Arnie Sowell Jr.
Vice President of California Policy
NextGen America

“The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities is pleased that advocacy efforts on behalf of Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and needy students have paid off. A new funding formula for the California Community College system that provides greater support to Latino and other underrepresented students is included in California’s 2018-19 state budget. This new funding formula recognizes and supports campuses that are serving increasing numbers of underrepresented students and will help ensure students’ completion of a degree or certificate.”

Antonio Flores
President and CEO
Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities

College Champions:

“The new student-centered funding formula drastically realigns the financial priorities of California’s community colleges, putting the needs of students first. More than ever, now is the time to keep our focus locked on access, equity, student success and equality, especially for low-income, underrepresented, and first-generation students. It is critical that our work to

advance student access and equity include a strong, consistent framework that makes student completion rates a priority.”

Jose Fierro, D.V.M., Ph.D.
President/Superintendent
Cerritos College

“We are long overdue for a formula that funds colleges based on **who** they serve and **how** they serve. Our California community colleges, which serves large populations of first-generation, low-income students and students of color, must receive the appropriate amount of funding to support their student success and achievement efforts. The antiquated funding model based purely on enrollment was a disservice to our students and to our amazing colleges who need the additional resources to support our most vulnerable students. This funding formula puts students first and I applaud our state leaders for recognizing that there is an equity imperative to moving towards a student-centered formula.”

Nora Vargas
Board Member
Southwestern Community College District

“I am proud that our community colleges serve 100% of their students. But it is appalling that we don’t graduate even half of them. Yet today marks a significant moment in California’s higher education history: By moving toward a community college funding formula that supports not just access, but success, we send a message to our students and our state that we believe in them, that we will fully support their efforts to make the dream of a degree, certificate or transfer, a reality!”

Sonia Lopez
Board Member
Compton Community College District