



## **The State of Higher Education for Latinx and Black Angelenos**

February 11, 2022

### **What Leaders Are Saying**

“As a Latina who represents a majority-Latinx district, I always work hard to ensure we are passing equitable higher education policy in Sacramento that empowers our students of color,” said Assemblywoman Luz Rivas (D-San Fernando Valley). “We are fortunate enough to have incredible institutions in the San Fernando Valley, like CSU Northridge, that recognize how important it is to support our Black and Latinx students. I was proud to have worked with CSUN to secure funding for their Global HSI Equity Hub – a hub that will foster student success for Latino, Black, and Asian American students – and I will always uplift projects like these that support diversity, equity, and inclusion in higher education. I want to thank the Campaign for College Opportunity for their report that highlights how far we’ve come and how much more we can do to support our students of color and foster a diverse and equitable learning environment in higher education.”

**Assemblymember Luz Rivas**  
Assembly District 39

“I am hopeful that the recommendations outlined in this report will guide us in the right direction as we seek urgent solutions to helping our families recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Black and Latinx make up the majority of LAUSD students, yet only 46 percent of Black students and 54 percent of Latinx students are prepared to attend their local CSU or UC. We regularly talk about equity, but it is critical toward student achievement. Without closing disparate racial equity gaps in A-G access for Black and Latinx student across Los Angeles, especially in our South Bay community, we will not be able to bring the dream of a four-year university education for the numerous youth seeking a college education.”

**Assemblymember Mike Gipson**  
Assembly District 64

“I thank the Campaign for College Opportunity (CCO) for its work helping California’s Black and Latino students succeed in higher education,” said Assembly Member Miguel Santiago (D-Los Angeles). “As indicated in CCO’s report, students who complete either the FAFSA or California DREAM Act application can receive more financial aid and be able to afford higher education. That is why I support the new requirement to have all high schools support students with the FASFA and the California DREAM Act applications and why we made this a requirement for students receiving a California College Promise waiver to receive two years of free community college.”

**Assemblymember Miguel Santiago**

Assembly District 53

“As a representative of a district with the greatest number of LAUSD schools within its boundaries, I am well aware that Black and Latino students continue to face inequities due to their socio-economic situation and artificial barriers created for them such as access to A-G coursework. A student’s zip code should not be a factor in their pathway to academic success. School district’s must re-analyze the A-G completion data to ensure equity and equality for all students – otherwise we will see a widening of the racial equity gap.”

**Assemblymember Reggie Jones-Sawyer**

Assembly District 59

"Without continuously assessing student data and outcomes, we can't truly realize our hopes for ensuring every student can enroll and succeed in college. We applaud this report for uplifting the important state of higher education in Los Angeles, especially for our Black and Latino students."

**Dr. Ana Ponce**

Executive Director, Great Public Schools Now

“This powerful and well-researched CCO report should serve as our urgent clarion call for educator-activists and policy makers to do major things differently to ensure equitable access and student success—an essential and timely investment towards California’s future stability, progress and inclusive prosperity.”

**Dr. Francisco Rodriguez**

Chancellor, Los Angeles Community College District

“In order to properly support Black and Latinx Angelenos students in higher education success, we need to bring to light and understand the barriers and inequities they face in K-12. This report does just that, and offers key recommendations that decision makers, parents, community leaders, and especially school districts can act on. We need to see real change now in order to fight against disparities that not only existed before COVID-19, but those that have compounded and those that have emerged since the pandemic began.”

**Vanessa Aramayo**

Executive Director, Alliance for a Better Community

“We know that higher education is imperative in the lives of Black and Latinx students in Los Angeles. A recent analysis by the Campaign for College Opportunity illuminates gains made, but also that barriers in accessing community colleges and universities continue to persist for high school students. Now is the time to reimagine learning and breaking down barriers, while offering students’ the social emotional supports that will prepare them for the Covid world we are now living in, and beyond.”

**Sandy Mendoza**

Advocacy Coordinator, Families in Schools

“Los Angeles is famously a place that people come to realize their dreams—yet it’s still far from helping its own Black and Latinx young people realize theirs. While some encouraging progress toward educational equity has been made, change isn’t coming soon enough for students of color who are now facing higher barriers to a college degree than ever. Los Angeles’s leaders must take action; if they are bold enough, Los Angeles can lead the way toward a new, more just California.”

**Dr. Chris Nellum**

Executive Director, The Education Trust West

"As we begin to slowly transition out of the COVID-19 pandemic we have seen an increased need in supporting Black and Latinx students to complete their FAFSA or CA Dream Act application. We need to push for increased attention (at all grade levels) on the importance of financial aid completion. Paying for college shouldn't be the barrier that prevents our students from attending college!"

**Yicel Paez**

Director, Cal SOAP

"We can't just show kids the goal. We have to help them find the path. Taking Black and Latinx kids through the FAFSA and DREAM Act processes not only gives them access to critical financial support, it makes their college opportunities feel real and achievable. This is priceless when it comes to their confidence and momentum."

**Tony Brown**

CEO, Heart of Los Angeles

“Everyday, Black and Latinx students in Los Angeles encounter systemic barriers that stand in the way of achieving their college and career goals. The recommendations included in this report seek to eliminate these barriers and serve as our to do list. Now let’s get to work.”

**Alison De Lucca**

Executive Director, SoCal CAN