FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Audrey Dow
audrey@collegecampaign.org
(310) 402-8858

New Research: Examining Disparities in College Opportunity by Gender for Black Californians

Startling Trend: More Black Women in California Are Transferring to For-Profit Institutions than the University of California and California State University combined

Los Angeles, CA – Today, the Campaign for College Opportunity published “Examining Disparities in College Opportunity by Gender for Black Californians.” A follow-up to our February 2021 State of Higher Education for Black Californians report, this publication explores additional findings on completion rates for California’s Black men and women in the California Community Colleges, the California State University (CSU) and the University of California (UC). The report finds that while a growing number of Black Californians are earning college degrees, there are troubling gaps in access and success for Black students, with pronounced inequities by gender.

The Good News

- Three- and four-year completion rates have improved for Black men and women enrolling in the California Community Colleges.
- The four-year graduation rate has more than doubled for Black freshmen women at the CSU, and more than half of Black women who enroll in the CSU as freshmen graduate within six years.
- The four-year graduation rate has doubled for Black men who entered as freshmen at the CSU.
- More than two-thirds of Black men and women who transferred into the CSU graduate within four years.
- 73% of Black men and 81% of Black women who started in the UC as freshmen graduated after six years. Overall, more than 80% of Black transfer students graduate from the UC within four years of enrolling.

The Bad News

- Only 8% of Black men and 10% of Black women who enrolled in the California Community Colleges in the 2016-17 academic year graduated with a degree or certificate within four years.
- Only 17% of Black men and 18% of Black women are supported to transfer within four years.
- More Black women transfer to for-profit colleges than to the UC and CSU combined.
- Only 14% of Black men who enroll at the CSU as freshmen are supported to graduate within four years, and 42% graduate in six years.
• Only 30% of Black men and 39% of Black women who transferred into the CSU graduate after two years. While Black women graduate at higher rates, there is still a 13 percentage point gap between them and the graduation rate of white women.
• The UC four-year graduation rate for Black men (50%) is 20 percentage points lower than that of white men (70%). For Black women in the UC, the graduation rate (65%) is 14 percentage points lower than their white women counterparts (79%).

To hear more about the findings and join a discussion on solutions to ensure black students can attend and succeed in community college, join the webinar **Sounding the Alarm: Addressing the Declining Representation of Black Students in California Community Colleges**. Hear from prominent college leaders, policymakers, researchers and racial equity advocates in California. Dr. Darla Cooper, executive director of the RP group, will present the key findings from our latest publication.

###

**About Campaign for College Opportunity**

The Campaign for College Opportunity is a California non-profit bipartisan policy and research 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](http://Facebook.com/CollegeCampaign) or follow @CollegeOpp.