FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 21, 2022

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM AND SIX LEGISLATORS RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP IN SUPPORTING COLLEGE ACCESS AND STUDENT SUCCESS

On January 19, 2022, the Campaign for College Opportunity hosted its 2021 Legislative Dean’s List Reception in a virtual ceremony to honor seven California legislative leaders for their fundamental roles in pursuing student-centered policies that advance college opportunity, college affordability, student success, racial equity and institutional coordination.

The Campaign recognized the following legislative leaders:

- **California Governor Gavin Newsom** – Distinction in Higher Education Vision & Investment, recognizing his critical leadership to pass an unprecedented $47 billion higher education package in the 2021-22 State Budget agreement. We commend his visionary leadership on strengthening community college transfer, expanding state financial aid and more.

- **Assemblymember Marc Berman (AD-24)** - Distinction in Transforming Transfer, recognizing his courageous leadership for delivering a historic transfer bill package, Assembly Bills 928 and 1111, which will ensure more community college students are supported to timely degree attainment through a streamlined pathway.

- **Lorena Gonzalez, former Assemblymember (AD-80)** - Distinction in Courageous Pandemic Response, recognizing her years of service in the Legislature committed to student success. By restoring college opportunity for students most impacted by the pandemic through Assembly Bill 104, her efforts will allow students to remain eligible for college admissions amid an ongoing pandemic.

- **Senator Ben Hueso (SD-40)** - Distinction in Providing Pipelines to College Opportunity, recognizing his leadership on Senate Bill 416, which establishes the Incarcerated Student Bill of Rights. His commitment to maximizing opportunities for formerly/currently Californians ensures they can obtain a high-quality education and upward social mobility.

- **Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin (AD-44)** - Distinction in Statewide Higher Education Leadership, recognizing her central role in advancing coordination amongst California public higher education systems as she authored Assembly Bill 99. We applaud her
commitment to strengthen the education-to-workforce pipeline from cradle-to-career through the bill provisions incorporated into the 2021-22 State Budget agreement.

- **Senator Connie Leyva (SD-20)** – Distinction in Expanding College Access for All, recognizing her pivotal role in expanding college access and closing racial equity gaps by increasing the number of students eligible for admissions to our four-year public universities through the A-G Completion Improvement Grant Program established in the 2021-22 State Budget agreement.

- **Jeanice Warden-Washington**, Chief Consultant for the Assembly Higher Education Committee – Distinction in Student-Centered Policy Design, recognizing her exceptional commitment to creating inclusive higher education systems through thoughtful consideration and strategic guidance to committee members on topics ranging from transforming community college transfer pathways, to reforming and redesigning California’s financial aid system.

“These legislative leaders epitomize the dedication and courage necessary to strengthen educational equity and support California’s diverse, growing student body in reaching their college dreams,” said Jessie Ryan, executive vice president of the Campaign for College Opportunity. “We are grateful for the commitment each honoree has shown in the 2021 legislative cycle. Their critical efforts have opened the doors of opportunity for countless California students while closing racial equity gaps and building a stronger future for our state,” she concluded.

The recording of the event is available [here](#).

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*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), like us on Facebook at [CollegeCampaign](https://www.facebook.com/CollegeCampaign), and follow us on Twitter and Instagram at @CollegeOpp.*