



WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT

“ACCESS DENIED: RISING SELECTIVITY AT CALIFORNIA’S PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES”

“The Assembly has made college access a priority by increasing financial aid, protecting and improving the Middle Class Scholarship, and working with UC and CSU to ensure more California students are enrolled. The attention that the Campaign for College Opportunity brings to the issue is a valuable tool to keep higher education in reach for California families.”

The Honorable Toni Atkins
Speaker
California State Assembly

“Once again the Campaign for College Opportunity reminds us in its latest report, *Access Denied: Rising Selectivity in Our Public Universities*, of the importance of providing all California children with an equal opportunity to succeed. California will be 1.1 million bachelor degrees short of our economic needs by 2030. The state’s economic future depends on our students being able to access, afford and complete a postsecondary degree. A majority of the 6 million children attending our K-12 public schools are low-income and underrepresented minorities, and California must take a more strategic approach to establish a pipeline from our K-12 school system to our higher education institutions. ”

Kevin de León
President pro Tempore
California State Senate

“For a state, increased selectivity at public universities is not appropriately a matter of pride, but one of embarrassment; it is an emblem of our failure to ensure that all children’s education dreams can be realized. State investment in seats in higher education should correlate with the future need for college graduates and with the demand among students to fill that need. As this critical report very well demonstrates, California has inexplicably reduced investment in higher education just as need and demand have expanded.”

Thomas A. Saenz
President and General Counsel, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
Chair of Board, Campaign for College Opportunity

“The report released today by the Campaign for College Opportunity underscores the need to invest in and expand access to public higher education in California, so that we may fulfill the aspirations of California students and supply the college graduates critical to fuel our state’s economy. With that mission in mind, UC will seek to increase enrollment for California undergraduates by 10,000 over the next three years – with 5,000 expected next year, making room for more Californians at all nine UC campuses that educate undergraduates.”

Janet Napolitano
President
University of California

“I think my chances of getting into the schools I applied to are slim compared to others. I’m very involved in my community so I hope that helps. I found it surprising that you need different GPAs for different majors at the CSU. More students want to go into engineering and all the jobs right now revolve around technology – technicians, electrical and mechanical engineers. So, if the world needs more of those people and more students want to be engineers, it shouldn’t be so hard to get in.”

Ruben Estrada
12th grade student
Theodore Roosevelt High School, Boyle Heights

“CSU denying 30,000 eligible students last year is heartbreaking for all the talented students whose only opportunity to succeed professionally relies on their ability to access a high quality and affordable university education. Getting into the UC for students today is more like playing the lottery. College counselors can no longer tell students with any accuracy where they are likely to get in even if they had a 5.0 GPA.”

Ivna Gusmao
High School College Counselor (Ret)
Reseda High School

“When we are researching colleges and choosing the ones we are applying to, we begin by asking one question, ‘What is the acceptance rate of [insert college name]?’ It’s really unfortunate that students decide the college they are applying to based on their acceptance rate instead of finding the right fit that meets their personal and professional needs.”

Sara Jaime
12th grade student
Theodore Roosevelt High School, Boyle Heights

“Getting accepted to a California State University or University of California campus as a first-time freshman has become increasingly difficult and downright challenging. Of course, being accepted to a four-year university should not be easy but I have witnessed more and more students who meet the eligibility requirements of a CSU or UC get denied to campuses that they would have been accepted to several years before.”

John Kim
College Counselor
Belmont High School

"California's future depends on increasing access, affordability, and student success in the UC and CSU systems. It is harder today for California youth to enroll in our state's public universities than any other time in the past 30 years, with thousands of eligible California students turned away due to budget cuts and limited space. Many more students struggle to pay tuition and fees that have skyrocketed in recent years. It is imperative that California reinvest in its public higher education system so that California youth from all backgrounds, especially low income students of color, have equal opportunity to enroll in and graduate from the state's four year universities."

Stewart Kwoh
President and Executive Director
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles

“California's economy demands more college graduates and this will grow exponentially in the future. **Access Denied** points out an unfortunate reality that the state must be more innovative so that our public universities are not turning away bright young students from the UC and CSU.”

Rob Lapsley
President
California Business Roundtable

“The Campaign for College Opportunity highlights the urgency of ensuring that today's California students enjoy the same access to public higher education as the generations that have come before them.”

Monica Lozano
Chair
University of California Board of Regents

“California’s hospitals depend on a skilled workforce to deliver care to patients. The University of California and the California State University systems educate and train doctors, nurses and other health professionals in large numbers, yet hospitals still experience workforce shortages in many occupations due to capacity constraints at the universities. These shortages will be exacerbated by thousands of retirements in the coming decade. Increasing the capacity of the UC and CSU systems to educate all qualified students is crucial to California’s future economy and key to addressing workforce demands of the health care industry.”

Cathy Martin
Vice President, Workforce Policy
California Hospital Association

“The *Access Denied* report is yet another example of how the state's shortsighted budget decisions are affecting people's lives and the greater economy. Impacted admission and decreased affordability are direct and sad correlations to state disinvestment. The report highlights this trend, and also highlights the injustice associated with qualified applicants being denied their opportunity to attend college. “

Miles Nevin
Executive Director
California State Student Association

“The Campaign for College Opportunity’s timely report highlights one of the many serious challenges facing this generation of California students. Not only has tuition skyrocketed at UC and CSU, but tens of thousands of qualified applicants are simply turned away. Hardworking students across the state deserve better from policymakers who have the power to fix this problem.”

Rory O’Sullivan
Deputy Director
Young Invincibles

“The Campaign for College Opportunity’s latest report ***Access Denied*** is a helpful reminder of what we are doing right and what we are doing wrong in California higher education. The ‘right’ is we are preparing more of our high school students for college than ever before and California continues to have some of the top ranking universities in the world. What we continue to get ‘wrong’ is how our colleges and universities are funded and the ever decreasing opportunities they provide for California students. ***Access Denied*** is a rallying call for business leaders, community advocates, elected officials and college administrators to change how we fund higher education and review the standards to admission to ensure all qualified California students have a seat at a UC or CSU. The economic future of California is dependent on an educated workforce and we are failing to ensure our children are prepared to meet those demands.”

Helen Torres
Executive Director and CEO
Hispanas Organized for Political Equality