



**Shut Out Report Quotes from California Leaders
December 2021**

“Access to public higher education in California is access to the future. Yet, more than sixty years after the Master Plan was put in place, there are still too many roadblocks for what is now a highly diverse state with a majority minority population that has become the fifth largest economy in the world. This report updates the Plan for the 21st Century.”

Lillian Kimbell

Chair, California State University Board of Trustees

“California’s higher education institutions are engines of social mobility for the state, but only to the extent that access policies reflect the times—particularly the heightened need for bachelor’s degree holders in today’s economy as well as the increased diversity of California’s population. As the report underscores, state leaders must adopt new policies to expand access to the universities while also eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in enrollment and degree completion, especially in high-demand majors.”

Pamela Burdman

Executive Director, Just Equations

“The Campaign for College Opportunity’s newest report, Shut Out: The Need to Increase Access to the University of California and the California State University, deserves your attention. As a practitioner, advocate, and parent I want to see our state leaders make moves on the key recommendations outlined in this publication. There is a clear path toward equity in higher education and increasing access to opportunity for our students — let’s get to work.”

Joanna Kendrick

Executive Director, GO Fresno Public Schools

"California's higher education system is a wonder of the world. But to meet the state's needs in the 21st century, it needs to serve more students, and we need to make sure that more of them are successful. Shut Out outlines a path to get there."

Jesse Rothstein

Faculty Director, California Policy Center

"This report is an important call to action for addressing stubborn inequalities in college access across our state. Doing so demands close attention to strategies for increasing capacity at impacted UC and CSU campuses and programs, and to addressing disparities by race and income in the college pipeline long before students apply."

Michal Kurlander

Dept. Chair, University of California, Davis

“Given the passage of AB928, the state’s higher education system must focus on ensuring community college students who have met their transfer requirements have access not only to the university but the degree program they want to complete. We must recognize the role placeboundedness plays in students’ choice to attend the university and expand the options available to students that allow them to meet their goals from where they are. The Campaign’s report highlights that impaction can no longer be an acceptable excuse for why students cannot study what they want, where they want.”

Darla Cooper
Executive Director, The RP Group

"The report, **Shut Out** by the Campaign for College Opportunity comes at an opportune time as California struggles with defining a new normal in higher education following this historic pandemic. In the Central Valley, Central Valley Higher Education Consortium Colleges and universities are looking to blur the lines between high schools and community colleges to improve the pathways and time to the bachelor's degree for all students. Hopefully this report will pave the way for policy changes and dialogue in California to provide more opportunity for these students of color to access our public university systems."

Ben Duran
Executive Director, Central Valley Higher Education Consortium

"As California forges ahead a path to recovery from a pandemic that exacerbated existing racial and economic disparities, we urge the CSU and UC to take bold action toward equity. Barriers in higher education, including the use of SAT/ACT exams and increased requirements for admissions, have for years shut out many BIPOC students from our public universities. InnerCity Struggle joins the Campaign for College and education advocates calling on state leaders to adopt policies that increase equitable access to the CSU and UC."

Maria Brenes
Executive Director, InnerCity Struggle

“In a State where majority of the population are minority, California cannot afford not educating its population. Shut Out Report recommendations provide a guideline to accomplish it.”

Luis Santana
Executive Director, Reading and Beyond

“Access to a college education has become increasingly harder to attain for Latinx and Black students. The Campaign for College Opportunity brings forth a set of recommendations for the UC and CSU systems in its new report that can make a difference for students of color, especially students from under-resourced communities. State leaders should adopt a five-year plan for increasing enrollment at the UC and CSU to meet our statewide degree attainment goal while intentionally closing racial/ethnic gaps in college access and degree completion.”

Ryan Smith
Chief External Officer, Partnership for Los Angeles Schools



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“California’s public universities are some of the foremost learning institutions in the world, yet as this report shows, we continue to allow large disparities in who gets access to them. Shut Out rightly pushes a much-needed conversation about eligibility and access in a state where so many of our college campuses don’t reflect the students in our K-12 classrooms. Especially in the wake of the pandemic, state leaders must match their progressive rhetoric with tangible actions that significantly – not incrementally – increase access to all UC and CSU campuses for Black and Latinx students.”

Chris Nellum

Executive Director, The Education Trust-West

“Over half of California high school graduates are Latino, yet Latinos face a significant gap in representation at the University of California system. California cannot continue to thrive unless we address this gap faced by our state’s largest racial/ethnic group. Access expansion, achieved through multiple means, is an essential element in reducing and ultimately eliminating this problematic gap.”

Thomas A. Saenz

President & General Counsel, MALDEF

"The Campaign for College Opportunity’s latest report highlights the “shutting out” of too many Black and Latinx students from accessing California’s public universities due to capacity constraints and racial inequities. At Families In Schools, we envision a public education system where every student has the opportunity and resource to succeed in school and in life. California has a moral imperative to make public universities accessible for all students so they in turn can blaze a trail of growth and prosperity now and into the future.”

Sandy Mendoza

Policy Director, Families in Schools

“California’s higher education institutions are engines of social mobility for the state, but only to the extent that access policies reflect the times—particularly the heightened need for bachelor’s degree holders in today’s economy as well as the increased diversity of California’s population. As the report underscores, state leaders must adopt new policies to expand access to the universities while also eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in enrollment and degree completion, especially in high-demand majors.”

Feliza Ortiz-Licon

Chief Policy & Advocacy Officer, Latinos for Education

“A higher education coordinating entity has been a long-standing policy priority at California Competes. If we are going to prioritize high standards of student success, system accountability, and equitable outcomes, a coordinating body is foundational to all these efforts. Establishment of this entity must be at the forefront in order to advance statewide goals and make meaningful change.”

Su Jin Jez
Executive Director, CA Competes

"We cannot pretend that this moment isn't crucial for our students. CSUs and UCs have the power to make sure the barriers before, and during, this pandemic don't keep our students locked out of an amazing education! NOW is the time to show our students we care and we hear them. Now is the time to increase access at CSUs and UCs for our students!"

Sam Casey
Executive Director, C.O.P.E.

“Systemic barriers are real and higher education has long been considered a key factor in escaping poverty. However, the target keeps moving for low-income people; especially Black, Latino, Indigenous, and poor white students. A college degree meant better until BIPOC started attending college in larger numbers - now it’s more competitive, less affordable, and even a debt trap for some. California legislators must heed the recommendations in the “Shut Out” report and increase access to post-secondary institutions for our students, our public education system, and the future of our state!”

Elmer Roldan
Executive Director, Communities in Schools

“Shut Out is the report that all college access professionals in California have been waiting for. It perfectly depicts the systemic barriers that stand between students and their college and career aspirations, and offers concrete solutions to eliminate the doors that have been slammed shut for far too long. This is a must-read and must-do for anyone who wants to see all students, but especially California's underrepresented students, succeed.”

Alison De Lucca
Executive Director, SoCal CAN