

## **2014-15 Budget Act Awards for Innovation in Higher Education**

The Budget Act of 2014 appropriates \$50 million in one-time resources for the Awards for Innovation in Higher Education. The program recognizes California community colleges, California State University (CSU) campuses, and University of California (UC) campuses that change existing policies, practices, or systems to achieve the following priorities:

- Significantly increase the number of bachelor's degrees awarded.
- Allow students to complete bachelor's degrees within four years after beginning higher education.
- Ease transfer through the state's education system by better recognizing learning that occurs across the state's education segments and elsewhere.

Any California community college, CSU campus, or UC campus may submit, individually or as part of a group, an application for an award to the Director of Finance until January 9, 2015.

A committee will be convened to select which campuses receive awards and determine the amount of funds included in each of those awards. The committee will consist of the following members: the Director of Finance or his designee, either of whom will serve as the committee's chairperson; a member of the State Board of Education selected by the Governor; a member of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors selected by the Governor; a CSU trustee selected by the Governor; a UC regent selected by the Governor; an appointee of the Senate Committee on Rules; and an appointee of the Assembly Speaker.

These awards will be made based on the extent to which the changes described in the applications address the following criteria:

- *Alignment:* The extent to which the changes credibly achieve the state's priorities at a lower cost than existing policies, practices, and systems, without requiring that students pay increased tuition or fees.
- *Scale:* The extent to which the changes involve broad participation by UC campuses, CSU campuses, community colleges, and local education agencies, including school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools, and can be replicated by other campuses.
- *Commitment:* The extent to which the campuses show commitment to achieving the state's priorities, as evidenced by changes made on or after January 10, 2014; the likelihood that any planned changes would be implemented; the support of faculty, students, and other individuals and groups involved in or impacted by these changes; and the ability to sustain changes over the long-term.

As a condition of receiving an award, a campus or group selected for an award will be required to report on how the funds will be used and commit to reporting to the state about the effectiveness of its changes. Use of the funds must be approved by the committee before the Director of Finance may distribute an award to that campus or group.

*Summary prepared by the California Department of Finance.  
For more information, please contact the Education Systems Unit at (916) 445-0328 or  
[innovationawards@dof.ca.gov](mailto:innovationawards@dof.ca.gov).*