



1. **College Promise Summit:** On August 30, over 400 leaders from across the California Community College system gathered in Oakland to participate in a summit on College Promise programs. The event, hosted by the Chancellor's Office, the League, the California College Promise, the national College Promise Campaign, and WestEd, drew an audience representing 60 of our 72 districts. Martha Kanter, Long Beach CCD Chancellor Eloy Oakley, Los Rios CCD Chancellor Brian King, Contra Costa CCD Chancellor Helen Benjamin, San Diego CCD Chancellor Constance Carroll, and League CEO/President Larry Galizio all played prominent roles in the program, lending their leadership and support to the College Promise model. The faculty, staff, administrators and trustees in attendance heard inspirational presentations about how College Promise programs in California and across the nation have helped economically disadvantaged students access and succeed in their pursuit of a higher education. Attendees learned about effective practices in launching, funding, and sustaining College Promise programs. In preparation for the summit, the Regional Educational Laboratory West at WestEd gathered background and program details on all 23 California College Promise programs and compiled the information in a booklet for the event participants. This useful resource can be found at [WestEd Booklet](#). The summit generated favorable news stories, including an article in the East Bay Times which can be found at the following link: [East Bay Times Article](#).
2. **Survey on Food and Housing Insecurity:** There is a growing awareness across higher education of the challenges many of our students face in securing the basic necessities of food and housing. In fact, the CSU system recently held a conference spotlighting the issue and sparking conversations about how to address it. To date, much of the activity in this area has occurred at the college-level with significant leadership coming from student leaders, faculty, and student services personnel. In order to position our system to be fully engaged in these efforts and support effective strategies for combatting food insecurity and homelessness among our students, the Chancellor's Office has initiated a survey of our colleges to develop baseline data on the prevalence of homelessness and food insecurity, as well as the strategies that our colleges have deployed to assist students struggling with these challenges. Once the survey has been conducted, we will compile the results and share them with the field.
3. **Closure of ITT:** In late August, the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) took action against the parent company of ITT Technical Institutes to block the private technical college from enrolling additional students receiving federal aid. This action followed a lengthy period of increased scrutiny from ITT's accreditor, the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools, focused on lack of fiscal controls and stability, questionable recruitment practices, and poor student outcomes. The recent steps by USDOE presented a formidable challenge to the company and, this morning, ITT announced that it would suspend operations immediately. As many as 35,000 students at ITT campuses across the U.S. will be impacted. You may recall that when a similar series of events recently occurred with the Corinthian Colleges, our colleges stepped in and provided educational options for many displaced students. During that time, the Chancellor's Office worked closely with USDOE as well as the California Department of Consumer Affairs, California Student Aid Commission, and others to coordinate a response, disseminate information, and assist students. We are currently in communication with USDOE and various state agencies to ensure a coordinated response. The scale of ITT is smaller than the Corinthian Colleges, so fewer communities are likely to be impacted. That said, many of you will be pulled into this as we attempt to support ITT students

who are being left in a vulnerable position through no fault of their own. We will follow up shortly with more information on this topic. Thank you in advance for your efforts.

4. **Survey of Community College CEOs:** On August 24, Wheelhouse, the new center at UC Davis focused on community college research and leadership development, published the results of a recent survey on the realities of being a CEO in the California Community College system. The survey of sitting CEOs, which will be administered annually in order to gather longitudinal data, is intended to shine light on the factors that lead to “churn” in the CEO ranks. Major reasons cited for high CEO turnover include: conflict with the board; retirement; leaving for a better compensated position; and conflict with college constituencies or community leaders. It is critical that we better understand the challenges related to CEO turnover so that we can develop strategies and interventions to support sustained, strong leadership at our colleges. Such leadership is essential to creating highly effective institutions capable of innovating and excelling at the community college mission. Among the most concerning findings in the report was that high numbers of CEOs expect to leave their posts in the near future (30% in less than a year, 60% in less than three years). Such research on this topic will help to inform our strategies for addressing this tremendous challenge. An overview of the report containing more details is attached and can also be accessed at: [Wheelhouse Report](#).
5. **Delay in Common Assessment Initiative (CAI) Implementation:** Development of the new assessment, CCCAssess, is taking longer than anticipated and, as a result, its scheduled implementation at about 40 pilot colleges in November will be delayed. There are a number of test items within the assessment that still need more validation with specific populations before they can be utilized for placement purposes. While the delay is disappointing, we need to make sure that instrument works properly before we deploy it. The overall project is still in good shape and will ultimately result in significant savings of time and money for our colleges and students. Unfortunately, many of these 40 pilot colleges have been using the Compass assessment, which is being phased out by the developer, ACT, in November. High priority is being placed on helping these colleges find testing options to use during the period of the delay. In the days ahead, CAI will release a revised project timeline and schedule informational webinars to keep college personnel informed. Updated information will also be available at [CCCAssess.org](#). For more information, please feel free to contact Jennifer Coleman, Statewide Program Director for CAI at jcoleman@ccctechcenter.org, or Debra Connick, Vice Chancellor for Technology, Research, and Information Systems at the Chancellor’s Office at dconnick@cccco.edu.
6. **Fresh Success:** Recently, the Foundation for California Community Colleges (FCCC) was awarded a contract from the California Department of Social Services to assist in the implementation of campus-based pilot programs associated with CalFresh (also known as Food Stamps or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). This grant provides up to \$5 million in new funding over 1.5 years to support pilot programs designed to help participants gain job skills and find employment. Under the program, California community colleges and community-based organizations will provide a wide array of student success and workforce services, along with ancillary services such as financial supports for textbooks, childcare, transportation, and emergency housing, all of which are critical to students’ long-term success. The FCCC will support participating community colleges and community-based organizations by serving in an intermediary role providing training, technical assistance, centralized billing and oversight, automated tools, and other features to increase compliance and success. At this time, two pilot sites have been identified: Gavilan College and Cosumnes River College. It is anticipated that the program could grow to include additional community colleges and community-based organizations over time. Plans for replication of the model, with continued intermediary services from FCCC, means the potential for impact on the lives of people in poverty is substantial, as is the potential for tapping substantial federal funds to help address poverty in California. Kudos to FCCC CEO Keetha Mills and her team for securing this grant!

