

California COLLEGE PROMISE

DECEMBER 2016



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<https://calcollegepromise.org/>
The California College Promise
website is hosted by the
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Statewide Promise Event Held

On August 30, 2016, more than 350 California community college representatives, trustees, and community partners from across the state came together to learn about the College Promise movement and to gain insights from College Promise experts from California and across the country.

The one-day event was sponsored by the Regional Educational Laboratory West (REL West) at WestEd in partnership with the California Community College Chancellor's Office, the College Promise Campaign, and the Community College League of California.

Fifty-seven of California's 72 community college districts were represented at the event. Attendees included 55 college presidents, 10 trustees of college boards, and 6 members of the California Community College Board of Governors.

Key goals of the conference for faculty, staff, administrators and trustees in attendance included:

- gaining an understanding of the national and state-wide College Promise movement;
- learning how to design, implement, and improve program elements such as financing, student support services, community partnerships, measurement and community outreach; and
- connecting with and building a community of College Promise colleagues across the state.

The event included the following:

- remarks from Eloy Oakley (incoming Chancellor of California's Community Colleges), Martha Kanter (Executive Director of the College Promise Campaign), Gavin Newsom (Lieutenant Governor of California), and Libby Schaaf (Mayor of Oakland);
- an overview of the College Promise movement and the growth in College Promise programs over time; and
- insights and guidance on various elements of College Promise programs.



Pictured are Dr. Helen Benjamin (CA Promise Leadership Team Chair); Eloy Oakley (Superintendent/President, Long Beach City College and incoming State Chancellor); Dr. Martha Kanter (Executive Director, College Promise Campaign); and Dr. Mary Rauner (Senior Research Associate at West Ed).

Event Resources

A summary of the event is available at <https://relwest.wested.org/events/333>. The webpage includes the California Promise in California booklet; highlights of all presentations; the WestEd blog on the event; the event program; and selected Power-Point presentations.

In preparation for the event, REL West identified 23 College Promise programs in California and compiled a booklet containing background information and details on each program. The booklet offers information to those developing, implementing, improving, and evaluating College Promise programs, and aims to encourage a broad community of College Promise learning and support in California. The booklet is available at <https://relwest.wested.org/resources/221>.

Info on website including videos and presentations made: <https://calcollegepromise.org/get-involved/events/>

Message from the California Leadership Team Chair

In 2015, President Obama began the conversation about the importance of having at least one year of higher education to qualify for tomorrow's jobs, and the idea of making a two-year community college education free for deserving students. As the largest higher education system in the nation, the national College Promise campaign looked to California to help build the momentum toward this vision.

Thanks to the members of the California College Promise Leadership Team, we took on the challenge of developing the framework for this statewide effort. We are fortunate to already have the Board of Governors Fee Waiver which provides free tuition for qualifying students, but we know that tuition is only part of the cost of attending college and expanded our efforts to tackle affordability and linking it to student success.

Much has been accomplished in California over the last year and a half. This newsletter summarizes where we are today, and what lies ahead. The momentum around College Promise continues to build and our students will benefit from our efforts.

Thank you for your participation and support of the California College Promise campaign. As I head into retirement, I know the campaign will be in good hands as Los Rios Community College District's Brian King has graciously agreed to be your next leadership chair.

Yours truly,

Helen

High Praise for California's Promise Efforts

The results of the work of the California Leadership Team have been extraordinary. To date, more than 25 California Promise initiatives are underway – in rural, suburban and urban communities, from South to North, and from East to West.

Today, a high school education is not enough for success in the 21st Century. More than 60% of our nation's jobs will require a postsecondary education. Building on the success of the Long Beach Promise, Adelante, EOPS, UMOJA, and innovative local foundation and financial aid efforts, College Promise programs are expanding, and California is seeing exponential growth – from San Diego to Orange County to Los Angeles, up the Central Coast and across to the Central Valley, and north to Oakland, Richmond and the Siskiyou's!

Across the country, more than 150 College Promise initiatives have launched in 37 states, the latest of which is the Detroit Promise on November 28th! The "promise" to make the first two years of community college – at a minimum – as universal, free, and accessible as public high school has been in the 20th Century has caught the attention of Governor Brown who signed legislation to expand the California Promise programs!

The College Promise Campaign in Washington, DC is tracking the impact of every program, encouraging expansion, and publishing results which can be easily accessed at <http://www.collegepromise.org>. We are confident that if we can help get more students to start and complete a community college education without taking on unmanageable debt, our nation will enjoy the prosperity of our graduates who are well-prepared for the workforce and the challenges and opportunities of the 21st Century.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Helen Benjamin, the California College Promise Leadership Team, and the many community college partners from business, government, philanthropy, labor, nonprofits, K-12, and higher education for their leadership, support, and collective impact to offer the College Promise to thousands more students. Lifting the aspirations and achievement levels of every deserving student is the common goal we share.

We cannot thank you enough! Gratefully,



Martha Kanter, Executive Director,
College Promise Campaign



2016 Legislative Overview

Assembly Bill 1741 (Rodriguez), California College Promise Innovation Grant

A highlight of the 2016 legislative session was the passage of the California College Promise Innovation Grant Program. This new program will provide financial support to districts to implement new or expand existing College Promise programs. Generally speaking, College Promise programs are partnerships which align local K-12 school districts, community colleges, and public university segments to provide clear pathways for students to follow in order to achieve their educational goals. Effective programs improve college readiness, access, and the overall success of participants.

The 2016-17 State Budget appropriated one-time funding in the amount of \$15 million to be distributed by the Chancellor's Office to selected applicants. A minimum of 20 grants will provide awarded, with a maximum award of \$750,000. Grants must be expended between May 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019. A timeline of key events is provided below.

December 2, 2016	Chancellor's Office released RFP
December 16, 2016	Webinar offered to provide colleges with useful information and guidance for completing applications
February 3, 2016	Deadline to submit applications
March 20, 2017	Successful applications will be presented to the Board of Governors for approval

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College Promise Programs to Date*

Program Name	Partners	Program Lead
Adopt a Fifth-Grader Program	Mendocino College Foundation, Anderson Valley, Fort Bragg, Laytonville, Mendocino, Potter Valley, Round Valley, Ukiah, Willits, Kelseyville, Lakeport, Lucerne, Middletown, and Upper Lake Unified School Districts	Mendocino College
Barstow College Promise	City of Barstow, Barstow Unified School District, Silver City Unified School District, Baker Unified School District	Barstow Community College District
Cabrillo Commitment S4C Scholarships	Cabrillo College Foundation, Cabrillo College	Cabrillo College
Central Valley Promise	Fresno State University, Firebaugh-Las Deltas Unified School District, Fresno Unified School District, King Canyon Unified School District, Mendota Unified School District, Sanger Unified School District	Fresno City College, West Hills Community College District
Cerritos Complete	ABC Unified School District (ABCUSD), Bellflower Unified School District (BUSD), Downey Unified School District (DUSD), Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District, Paramount Unified School District	Cerritos College
Coastside Futures	Cabrillo Education Foundation, Cabrillo Unified School District, Pescadero Unified School District, Coastside Education Foundation	San Mateo Community College District
College of Alameda Promise	College of Alameda (COA)	College of Alameda
College of the Siskiyous Promise	College of the Siskiyous Foundation	College of the Siskiyous
The Cuesta Promise	Cuesta College Foundation	Cuesta College
Folsom Lake College/Rancho Cordova College Promise	Folsom Lake College Foundation, City of Rancho Cordova	Folsom Lake College
Free City	San Francisco City College	San Francisco City and County
Higher Edge Promise	Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District (GCCCD), Grossmont Union High School District (GUHSD)	East County Educational Alliance
Long Beach College Promise	Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD), California State University, Long Beach (CSULB), City of Long Beach (joined in 2014)	Long Beach Community College (LBCC)
Los Angeles College Promise	Los Angeles Unified School District, City of Los Angeles Mayor's Office, UNITE LA (LA Chamber of Commerce)	Los Angeles Community College District
Oakland Promise	Oakland Unified School District (OUSD), East Bay College Fund, Oakland Public Education Fund, Peralta Community College District	City of Oakland
Ohlone Promise	Fremont Unified School District, Newark Unified School District, New Haven Unified School District, Ohlone College Foundation	Ohlone College
Ontario Promise Program	Ontario-Monclair School District	City of Ontario
Montclair Promise Program	Chaffey Joint Union High School District, Ontario-Montclair School District, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, Cal Poly Pomona, California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB), California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB), University of La Verne, The City of Montclair, The City of Ontario, Inland Empire United Way	City of Montclair
Richmond Promise	West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD), City of Richmond, Chevron Corporation	Contra Costa College
San Diego Promise	San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD)	San Diego Community College District (SDCCD)
San Jose City College 2021 Scholars Program	The City of San Jose, San Jose feeder school Districts	San Jose Evergreen Community College District
The San Marcos Promise	California State University San Marcos (CSUSM), San Marcos Unified School District (SMUSD), The San Marcos Promise (TSPM), Palomar College Foundation	Palomar College
Palomar Promise – San Diego North County Promise	11 feeder high school districts, public and private partners	Palomar College
Santa Ana College Promise	Santa Ana Unified School District (SAUSD), California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), University of California, Irvine (UCI), Santa Ana College Foundation, Santa Ana Partnership	Santa Ana College
Santa Barbara City College Promise	Santa Barbara Community College District (SBCCD) Foundation	Santa Barbara Community College
The Skyline College Promise	San Mateo County Community College District	Skyline College
South Bay Promise	Centinela Valley High School District (CVHSD), Inglewood Unified School District (IUSD), California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH), South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB), El Camino College Foundation	El Camino College (ECC)
Southwestern College Promise	Southwestern College Foundation, Sweetwater Union High School District	Southwestern College
Valley-Bound Commitment	San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC) San Manuel Band of Mission Indians	San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC)
Ventura College Promise	Ventura College Foundation	Ventura College
West Hills Community College District	West Hills Community College Foundation, Corcoran Community Foundation – Corcoran Promise Community organizations and individuals – President's Scholars	West Hills Community College District (West Hills College Lemoore & West Hills College Coalinga)
West Sacramento Promise	Sacramento City College System, West Sacramento Foundation	City of West Sacramento
West Valley College Community Grant		West Valley College

*To make corrections or additions to this list, please contact Dr. Mary Rauner at mrauner@gmail.com.

New California College Promise Programs



Los Angeles College Promise: Creating a City of Graduates

The Los Angeles College Promise will increase the number of community college graduates, university transfer and workforce-ready students throughout the region. Promise Partners

are Los Angeles Community College District, Los Angeles Unified School District, City of Los Angeles, LA Chamber of Commerce, UNITE LA and private philanthropy.

Important aspects of the Promise are waived tuition for the first year of college, priority enrollment and a dedicated support team providing a wide array of academic and student support services. (www.lacollegepromise.org)



Central Valley Promise

The Central Valley Promise is a community-wide effort to promote college as a viable option for youth in the region. To increase access to higher education, students participating in the Central Valley Promise will attend their first semester at a community college for free and offer students admission to one of the local community colleges or Fresno State if they meet the minimum requirements.

Through the Central Valley Promise app, students and parents will pledge to take proactive steps in middle and high school to prepare for higher education. This includes attending college fairs, visiting college campuses, applying for FAFSA or DACA and regularly meeting with counselors. Students from Firebaugh-Las Deltas, Fresno, Kings Canyon, Mendota and Sanger Unified School Districts are the first to participate in the program which will roll out to other school districts in phases.



San Francisco City College: Free City

Free City is a program offered by the City and County of San Francisco to make City College free to credit students. Any San Francisco resident or any student working for City College, the City government or the San Francisco Unified School District is eligible.

Designed to help remove financial barriers for credit students to pursue their education at City College, eligible students will have their fees waived. Students who already have financial aid can use the program to purchase books and other academic supplies. The funding mechanism is a real estate transfer tax approved by voters this November (Proposition W).

Barstow College Promise

The Barstow College Promise (BCP) is being developed by a coalition of organizations in the Barstow Community College (BCC) District, located in the High Desert of San Bernardino County. Partners include the Barstow Community College District, the City of Barstow, the three K12 feeder public school districts-- Barstow, Silver Valley, and Baker Unified, and several community leaders.

The program will start with a pilot project for 100 graduates in June of 2017. After the pilot phase is completed, the plan is designed for all students attending/graduating from the district's local unified school districts.

San Jose City College 2021 Scholars Program

San José City College's Promise was relaunched in fall 2016 with the 2021 Scholars program. Twenty-nine Scholars participated in the inaugural year of the program which is designed to link area high schools with SJCC and to increase the rates of certificate completion and transfers to UC and CSU campuses.

The initiative will accomplish this goal by developing the highest standards of quality education, minimizing cost to the student, offering dual enrollment to high school students, making use of technology including distance learning, facilitating full-time enrollment, and providing wraparound services that are evidence-based, data driven and closely connected. Students were randomly selected and received free enrollment, books for fall 2016, an Eco Pass, paid health fees, and specialized counseling and support services.

Palomar College Promise

Palomar College is partnering with 11 feeder high school districts, public and private partners to launch the Palomar Promise-San Diego North County's Promise. The program will provide graduating high school seniors with the first year of college for free, the cost of books up to \$1000, a prescribed class schedule, a student education plan, financial education and counseling. Palomar is negotiating with a local foundation to provide laptops to bridge the digital divide. Students will also have the option to set up a savings account with a local credit union. The program is scheduled to begin fall 2017.

California's Approach to the College Promise Initiative

A national conversation about college affordability and the importance of higher education attainment for our student's lives and for our economy as a whole began with the announcement of America's College Promise. This program was a bold effort to offer two years of tuition-free community college to hard-working students.

The California Community College system has learned from experience that tuition is only a small part of a student's total cost of attendance. A conversation about affordability must include financial aid for students to cover non-tuition fees, books and materials, cost of living, and other critical expenses. The leadership team began planning for a California College Promise that leverages the state's unique student financial aid funding model and aligns with other student success initiatives.

Since 1985, the California Community College system has offered the Board of Governors (BOG) Fee Waiver, a program that waives community college tuition fees for qualified students unable to afford it. Over the past three decades, California has invested more than \$5 billion in assistance to students through the BOG Fee Waiver, helping more than 5.1 million eligible students. Currently, more than 1 million of California's 2.1 million community college students enrolled statewide receive a fee waiver and 66 percent of the units taught are attended by students whose fees are waived. This long-term state commitment to community college access is unrivaled and positions California as a national leader in providing tuition support for needy students.

Through Promise programs, California community colleges can leverage state dollars by partnering with K-12, university, industry, and philanthropic organizations to expand community college access to students who have financial need but are not eligible for the fee waiver program. Additional funding can also be used to develop and expand services to support student retention and completion.

The following three strategies are being implemented at the local and state-wide levels to make higher education more affordable, thereby promoting access to California's community colleges, and improving student success.

1. **Promote the Board of Governors Fee Waiver.** Conduct marketing and research to ensure students are aware of the fee waiver. Guide students through the process and help them take advantage of all available aid and waivers.
2. **Reform Cal Grants for Community College Students.** Community college students are receiving less in Cal Grants than applicants from CSU and UC. Legislative remedies are being sought that increase the award amount and number of awards for deserving community college students.
3. **Align College Promise with California's Student Success Efforts.** Make California College Promise Programs the framework around which student success efforts exist. Within this structure community colleges can continue to expand and implement effective programs that include orientation, assessment, placement, counseling, and other education planning services. In addition, the College Promise structures can continue to create structured pathways for students that reduce time to completion and the overall cost of higher education.

2016 Legislative Overview, (continued from page 3)

Legislative efforts expanded the focus from just free tuition but towards college affordability. This session, two additional bills were introduced during the 2016 legislative session but were held due to their increased cost concerns. They focused on increasing the amount and number of Cal Grant B awards for community college students.

Senate Bill 412 (Glazer), Public Secondary Education: The California Promise

This bill was signed by the Governor on September 9 and establishes "the College Promise" requiring CSU campuses to promise priority registration, academic advisement and timely graduation for eligible students transferring from California

community colleges, and low-income, underrepresented or first-generation college students who fulfill the requirements.

Assembly Bill 1721 (Medina), Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant Program

This proposal is to increase the number of competitive Cal Grants to 34,000, benefitting mostly community college students and is held in Appropriations.

Senate Bill 1357 (Block) – Community College Students: Cal Grant B

This proposal is to create a supplemental grant of \$1,500 for community college students receiving a Cal Grant B and is held in Appropriations.