

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO
INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP & POLICY

Highlights of Institute's Reports:

- (1) "Variations on a Theme: Higher Education Performance in California by Region and Race"
- (2) "Shared Solutions: A Framework for Discussing California Higher Education Finance"

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These two reports were commissioned by the *Campaign for College Opportunity*, as part of its agenda to raise awareness of the serious need in California to increase college access and success and to encourage better planning toward these ends.

Report #1: "Variations on a Theme"

- ▶ First comprehensive attempt to analyze California's performance on the 50-state report card produced by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education beginning 2000.
- ▶ Examines individual components of grades; breaks down the data by region and race.
- ▶ Reveals several key performance problems facing the state, including:
 - ◆ **Inadequate preparation:** Low levels of high school student proficiency, especially in science and math.
 - ◆ **Weak college-going culture:** Low rates of college enrollment directly from high school – a pattern that significantly reduces chances for college completion.
 - ◆ **Too many students don't finish:** Low rates of persistence and completion among the majority of the state's students, who attend part-time at the community colleges.
 - ◆ **Regional variations:** Substantial disparities across regions in all of the performance measures, with the wealthier urban areas generally providing better opportunities.
 - ◆ **Racial variations:** Large disparities across racial/ethnic populations in levels of college preparation, participation, and completion – Latinos at the bottom.

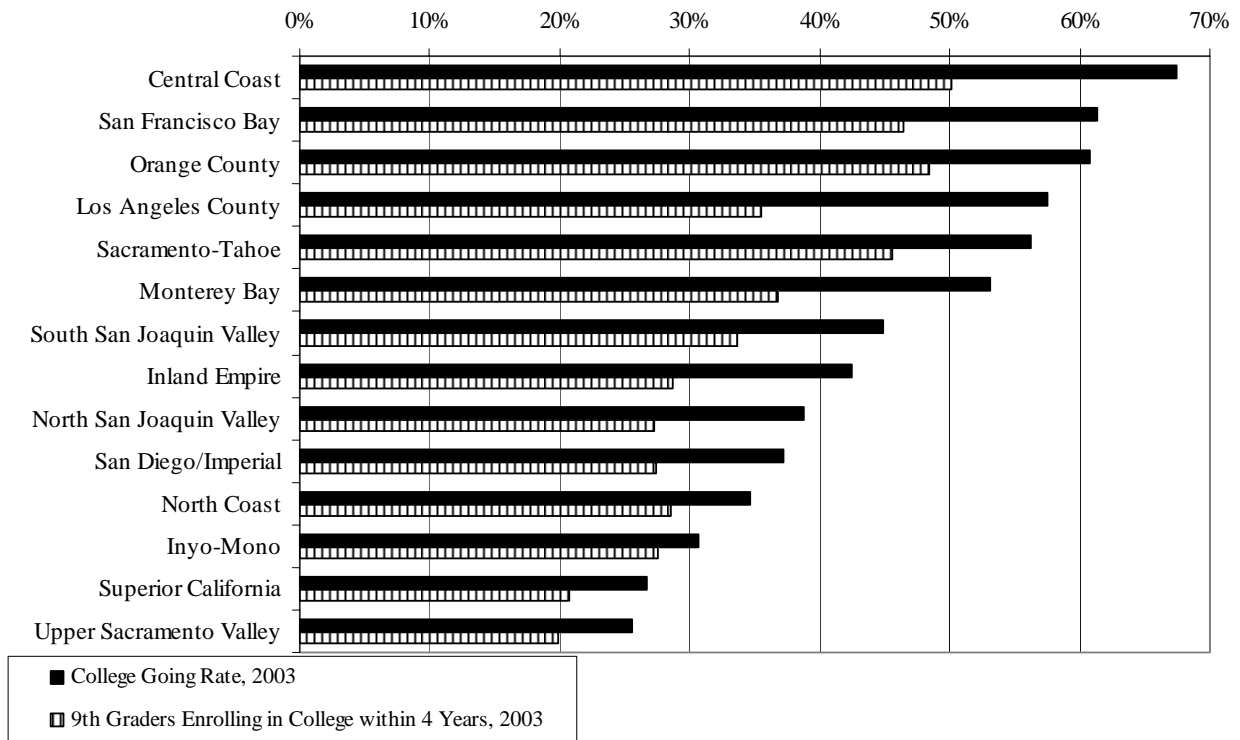
Highlights from selected problem areas:

(1) Weak college-going culture

National comparison: ranked 40th on high school graduates going directly to college

Regional variations:

Figure 3: Direct College-Going Rates by Region



Variations by Race/Ethnicity:

Racial/Ethnic Group	Percent of 18-24 Year-Olds Enrolled in College	Percent of Adults Ages 25+ Enrolled in College
Asian/Pacific Islander	60%	9.1%
White	43%	5.8%
Black	32%	8.8%
Hispanic or Latino	22%	5.4%

(2) Poor completion rates

National comparison:

- ◆ ranked 48th in degrees/certificates awarded per 100 undergrads enrolled
- ◆ ranked 50th in drop in % Latino or African-American from 18-year olds to college graduates

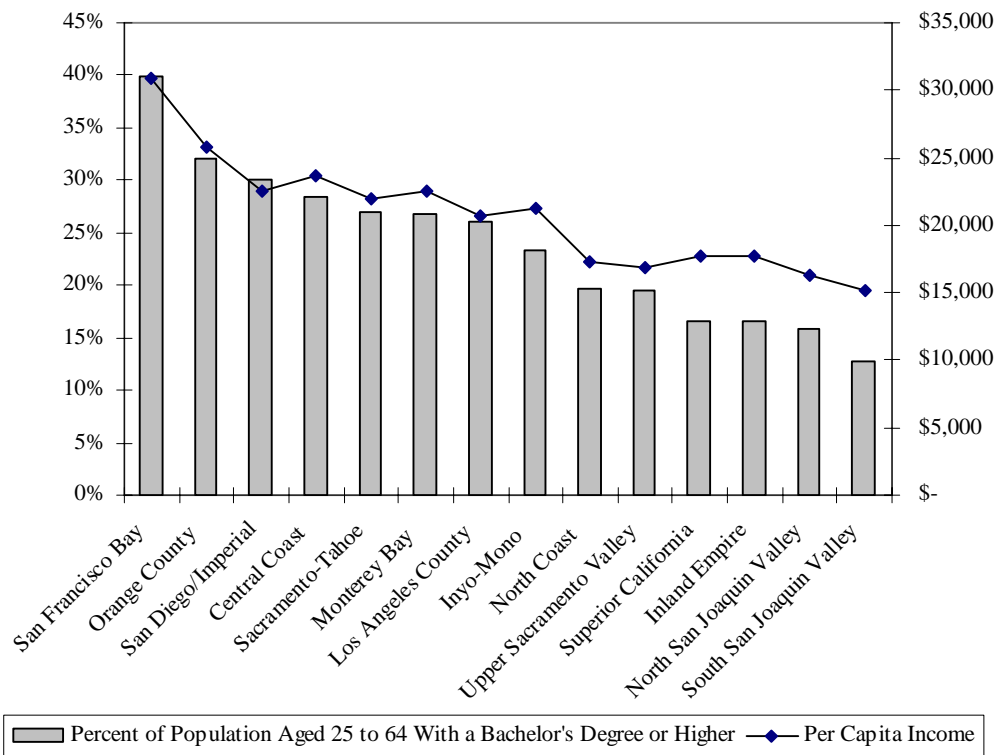
Regional and Race/Ethnicity variations

- ◆ variations exist but are small in comparison to variations in college participation

(3) Wide variations in educational attainment

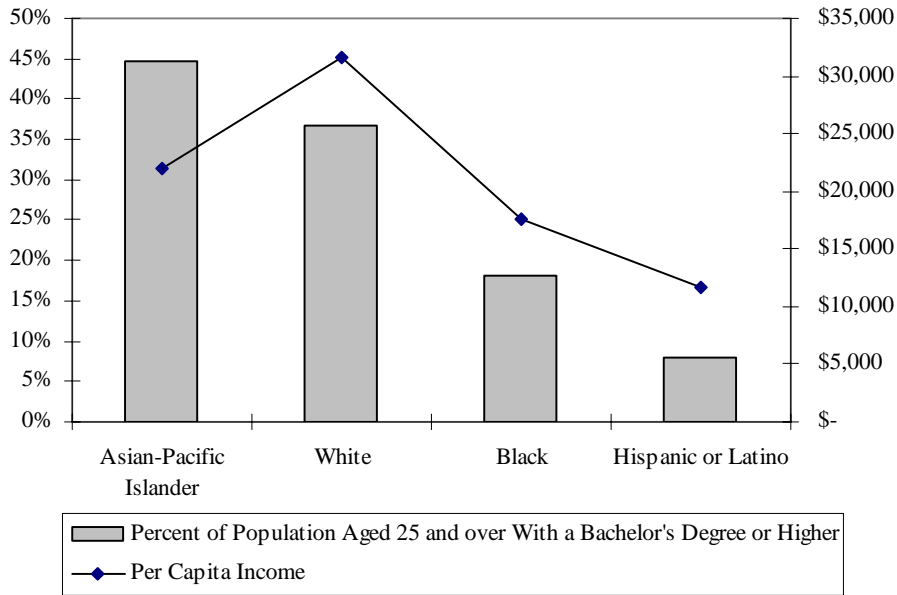
Regional variations:

Figure 7: Educational Attainment and Per Capita Income by Region



Racial/ethnic variations:

Figure 8: Educational Attainment and Per Capita Income by Race/Ethnicity



Policy implications of report include:

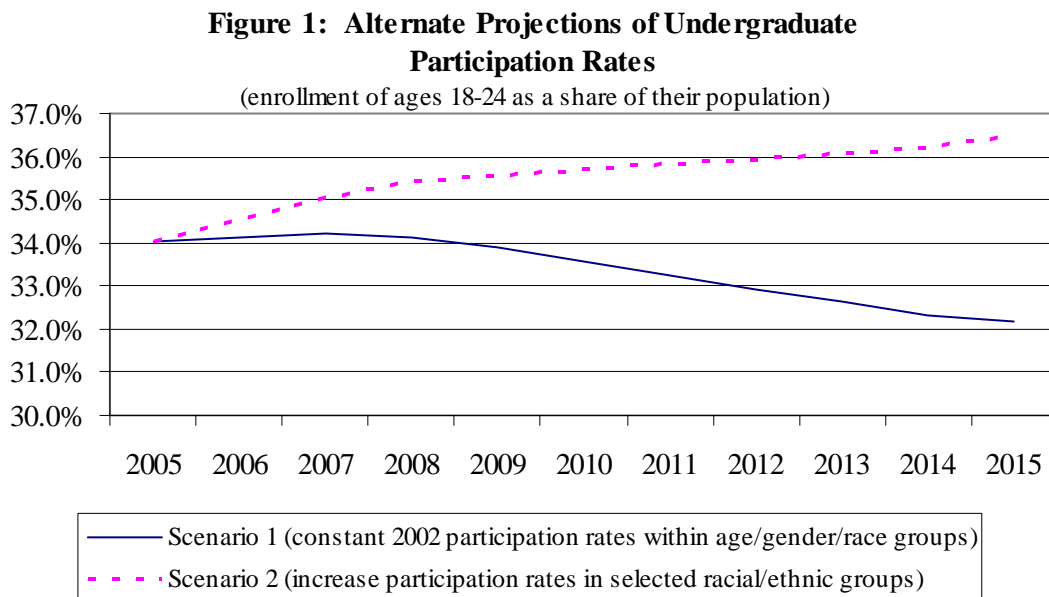
- ◆ It is essential to future of California to increase the rates of high school graduation, college participation, and degree completion among the black and Latino populations.
- ◆ Policies that promote direct, full-time college enrollment after high school will reap huge benefits for degree and certificate completion, and ultimately for state economic health.
- ◆ Policies should encourage regional collaboration across sectors to address unique regional challenges.

Report #2: “Shared Solutions”

- ▶ A framework for projecting higher education costs over ten years and how the costs can be met by:
 - ◆ increased efficiency, to reduce costs
 - ◆ state appropriations
 - ◆ student fees (with student financial aid)
- ▶ California faces big challenge to provide for college access
 - ◆ growing numbers of college-age youth over next decade
 - ◆ changing demographics
 - ◆ college education increasingly important for economic success
- ▶ Statewide planning is lacking
- ▶ Shared solutions are within reach, if planning begins soon

Some key findings:

- ▶ College participation among Latinos must increase



- ▶ Long-term costs are significant – annual costs could increase by 26 percent over next decade, *before inflation*; by 62 percent if community college funding is brought to national average.
- ▶ No one source is sufficient but shared solutions are within reach

State funding unlikely to rise to needed levels

- ◆ Over the last five years, higher education’s share of the state budget has declined.
- ◆ Meeting the costs *entirely* from increased state appropriations would take a major shift in state priorities and require difficult choices.

Student fees are only part of a solution

- ◆ Covering the cost from fees *alone* would require fee increases of well over 70 percent over the decade, an increase inconsistent with California’s commitment to affordable higher education.

Efficiencies could contribute a share

- ◆ There are significant opportunities to reduce costs through “systemic efficiencies” that improve the flow of students from high school through community college and university. Students would take fewer overall units which frees up slots for others.
- ◆ Reforms that could reduce total units taken include: college units earned in high school, better preparation to reduce remediation in college, better assessment and placement, improved academic advising, improved course offerings, seamless transfer, and reducing high unit major requirements.
- ◆ Some efficiency improvements will *increase* higher education costs (as more student stay enrolled) but bring huge benefits to the state general fund, as more college graduates pay taxes and reduce the demand on costly public services.