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Student Success in the California Community Colleges: Learning From and Acting On Research Knowledge

Nancy Shulock
Institute for Higher Education Leadership & Policy

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Key Points

- California faces huge performance challenges in postsecondary education
- Good news/bad news in how we are addressing the challenges
- You (community college administrators) can make a big difference

Performance



California Is Becoming Less Educated Than Other States (Rank Among States in % with College Degrees)

Age Group:	AA or Higher	BA or Higher
>64	3 rd	4 th
45-64	14 th	13 th
35-44	26 th	17 th
25-34	31 st	26 th

The Grades are In:

California lags most other states in important aspects of higher education performance

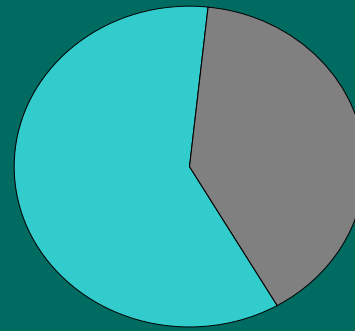
- 45th in share of HS students taking advanced math/science
- 40th in rate of HS grads going directly to college
- 47th in number of degrees/certificates awarded in relation to enrollment
- Huge variations by region and race/ethnicity

Policies to Promote Access

Incoming CCC Students
1999-2000

520,407
Students

Degree-
Seekers: 60%

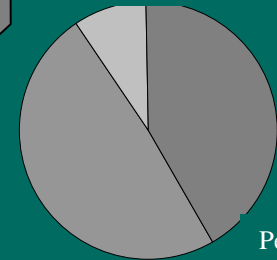


Non-Degree-
Seekers: 40%

206,373
Students

Job Skills:
49%

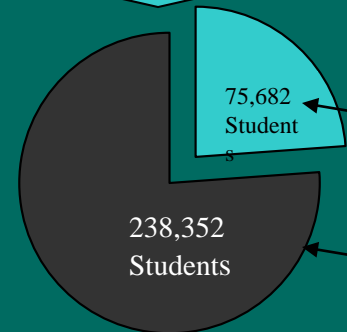
Basic
Skills: 9%



Personal
Enrichment:
42%

314,034
Students

Policy Barriers
to Completion



Complete
Certificate, Degree
or Transfer within
6 Years: 24%

Do Not Complete
within 6 Years: 76%

75,682
Student

238,352
Students

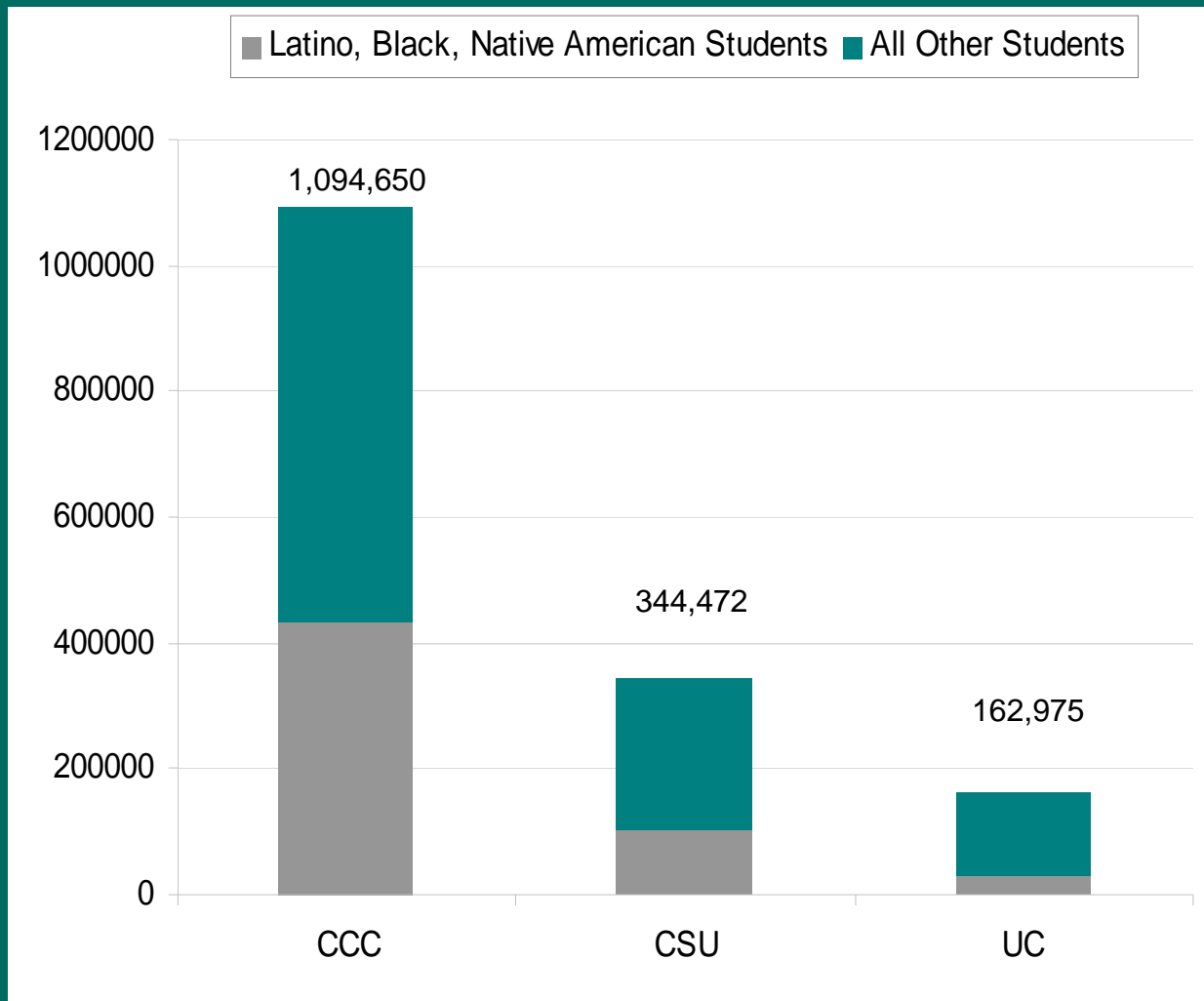
Completion Rates Worse for Certain Groups

- 33% for Asian students
 - 27% for white students
 - 18% for Latino students
 - 15% for black students
-
- 27% for students age 17-19
 - 21% for students in their 20s
 - 18% for students in their 30s
 - 16% for students age 40 or older

Many Barriers in State Policies to Improving Student Success

- Finance system that lacks incentives for student success
- Regulation of college expenditures that limits spending on student support
- Restrictions on hiring to meet student and workforce needs
- Fees and aid policies that leave colleges and students with inadequate resources
- Institutionalized reluctance to provide needed guidance to students

Community Colleges are Key to Improving Education Levels



Good News/Bad News



Good News: We Know What Works (From Research)

1. Increased readiness for college
2. Early success/basic skills
3. Effective enrollment patterns
4. Clear goals and pathways
5. Intensive student support
6. Using data to inform decisions

Some Key IHELP Recommendations

Based on research and our analysis of state policies:

- Funding model that provides incentives for student progress and success (added incentives for under-prepared students)
- Fewer restrictions on *how* funds are used and more emphasis on results
- More effective assessment and placement so students begin where they can be successful
- Clearer and more structured pathways and better aligned programmatic requirements

More Good News

- New leadership and greater commitment across CCC to implement reforms to improve student success
- Lots of good ideas on the table within the system, colleges, and Legislature

The Bad News: Lost time = Lots of Catching Up

Other states' cultures more amenable to reform:

- Accept completion as measure of student success
- Don't have the burdensome rules and regulations
- More willing to consider statewide solutions
- More willing to impose structures on students

Other states making more progress on policy reforms:

- Rewarding progress and success
- Common assessment and placement
- Clearer pathways
- Using data to make decisions

The Worst News of All

- The price of lagging other states has grown
- Potential funders are very reluctant to invest in California:
 - Gates, Hewlett, Irvine....
 - Feds, State

They are not convinced we can change



Hypothetical Cohort:
The Vision

More Students

- High school grads w/o delay
- Young adults w/o degrees



576,000
Students

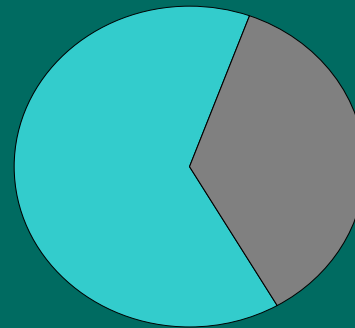


More Degree-seekers

- Increased priority on degree-seekers
- Clearer pathways to certificates and degrees

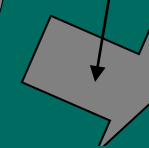


Degree-
Seekers: 64%



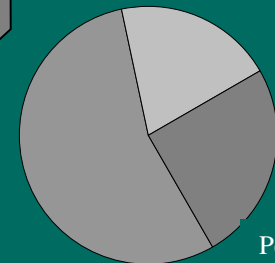
Non-Degree-
Seekers: 36%

206,000
Students



Job Skills:
55%

Basic Skills: 20%



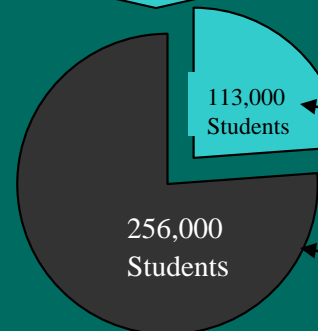
Personal
Enrichment:
25%

370,000
Students



50% More Completers

- Better prepared students
- Better incentives
- Increased guidance and support



113,000
Students

Complete
Certificate, Degree
or Transfer within
6 Years: 31%

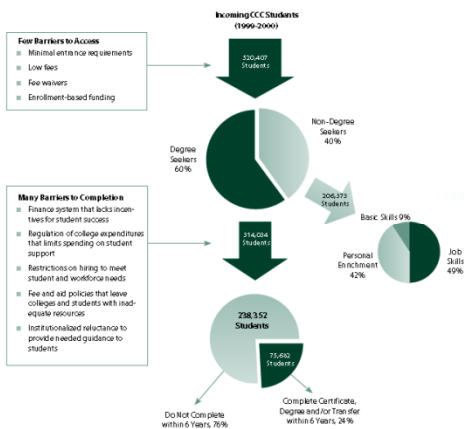
Do Not Complete
within 6 Years: 69%

256,000
Students

Putting it All Together

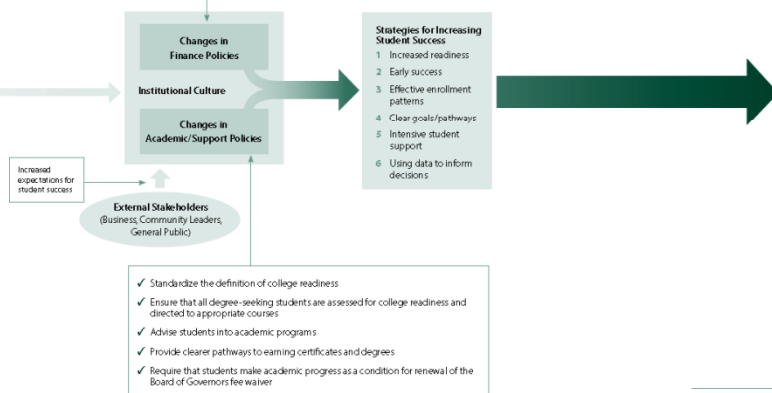
from insert from IHELP report:
 “It Could Happen”

The Situation Today: Too Few Degree-Seekers and Too Little Success

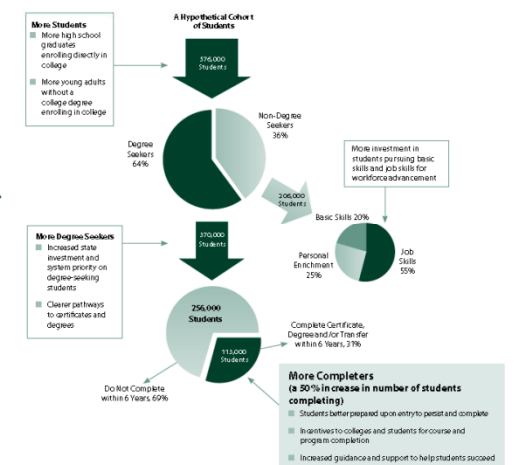


An Achievable Agenda for Greater Student Success

- ✓ Increase the state's investment in educating community college students seeking a credential, basic skills, or workforce advancement
- ✓ Allow districts to retain fee revenue on top of the state appropriation
- ✓ Reduce the portion of the base allocation to districts that comes from 3rd week enrollment and incorporate incentives for student progress and success
- ✓ Provide enriched funding levels for serving under-prepared and low-income students with added incentive for graduating such students
- ✓ Modify the 50 percent law to incorporate all but administrative and facility expenditures to allow colleges to find the best mix of academic, academic support, and student support services to promote student success
- ✓ In conjunction with an allocation formula that rewards student progress and success, minimize rules that prescribe how colleges are to spend their funds



A Vision of Greater Success: More Students, More Degree-Seekers, More Completers



What You Can Do

- Support current policy reforms – push for more and faster changes
- Take the initiative at your campus – with or without policy changes
- Put student success at the center of everything

We must send a message to the skeptics that we can and will change



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Contact Information:

Institute for Higher Education Leadership & Policy
(IHELP)

www.csus.edu/ihelp

(916) 278-3888

ihelp@csus.edu

nshulock@csus.edu