Student Success Task Force Recommendations

January 2012

Recommendations Overview

This comprehensive plan to improve the System's capacity to serve students:

• Would rebalance priorities within the community college system to better focus on the core missions of workforce
preparation and transfer, while protecting access
• Would make community colleges more responsive to the needs of students and the economy
• Would increase student success rates for certificate and degree completion and transfer to four-year institutions

Recommendations Overview

1. Increase college and career readiness
2. Strengthen support for entering students
3. Incentivize successful student behaviors
4. Align course offerings to meet student needs
5. Improve education of basic skills students
6. Revitalize and re-envision professional development
7. Enable efficient statewide leadership and increase coordination among colleges
8. Align resources with student success recommendations

1. Increase college and career readiness

• Addresses the issue that 70-90% of first-time CCC students require remediation in English, math or both.

• Common Core State Standards implementation provides opportunity for collaboration with higher education and K-12 partners to define standards for college and career readiness and communicate them to students in the K-12 assessment process.

2. Strengthen support for entering students

• Require common, centralized, and diagnostic assessment.
• Require students to participate in orientation and complete education plans; require students with limited "college knowledge" to participate in a student success course or other intervention.
• Integrate student-friendly technology to increase access to support services—balanced to NOT replace face-to-face interactions, but a balance of the two will.

3. Incentivize successful student behaviors

• The system is already rationing access to education; we must find better ways to ration.
• The community college system will adopt enrollment management policies that encourage students to follow delineated educational pathways that are most likely to lead to completion of their educational goal:
– Enrollment prioritization
– Require progress according to institutional standards towards an educational objective for BOG Fee Waiver eligibility
– Require students to begin addressing basic skills deficiencies in first year
– Encourage students to consider attending full time

4. Align course offerings to meet student needs

• Currently, there is an imbalance between the supply and demand of basic skills, career and technical, and transfer classes.

• The community college system must shift from using historical course scheduling patterns and, instead, make informed course schedules focused on needs of students to complete certificates, degrees, and transfer.

5. Improve education of basic skills students

• Of students who begin a mathematics sequence four levels below transfer-level , only 25.4% ever achieve a certificate, degree, or transfer preparation; the range is similar for students in basic skills English writing and reading and English as a second language.
• The community college system, with the legislature and K-12 education, should develop a cohesive statewide framework for the delivery of adult education.
• Target existing Basic Skills Initiative dollars for curriculum innovation and the scaling of best practices.

6. Revitalize and re-envision professional development

• On-going professional development is a fundamental component of supporting systemic change that will improve student success.

• The community college system should develop and support the continued and focused professional development for all faculty and staff through the targeted use of "flex days" and by focusing professional development on basic skills instruction and other high-priority statewide needs.

7. Enable efficient statewide leadership and increase coordination among colleges

• Implement common goal-setting at the district and college level that includes equity measures, report progress towards meeting these goals in a public and transparent manner, and implement local "score cards."
• Support stronger statewide coordination and a more robust Chancellor's Office.
• Support a statewide longitudinal student record system.

8. Align resources with student success recommendations

• Task Force does not support implementing Performance-Based Funding at this time.
• The community colleges system needs to both redirect existing resources and acquire new resources to implement the Task Force recommendations:
– Invest in the Student Support Initiative
– Establish innovative funding mechanism for Basic Skills