

JUNE 10, 2009

**I. Reduce & minimize the categorical cut to Matriculation as proposed in the 2009 May Revise:**

- Student success (retention, persistence, degree/certificate completion, and transfer) is met in the California Community Colleges through a program called “matriculation”. This program of services (orientation, assessment, course placement, and counseling) begins with a student’s arrival on campus and proceeds throughout students’ progress through college.
- For community college students these support services literally make the difference for students to pursue an effective and **cost efficient pathway** to obtain an educational goal (an acquired skill, certificate, degree, or transfer). The lack of matriculation services for students can spell their educational failure.
- The state has a compelling fiscal, as well as policy, basis for assuring the matriculation investment in community college students. Matriculation services result in as many students as possible making appropriate educational choices, moving in an efficient path through college, and attaining a planned educational goal. Prior to passage of AB3, the community colleges were known as the “revolving door” and directionless students wasted taxpayer funding. In this economic crisis we cannot afford to waste the precious investment the state makes in community colleges – in order to insure this investment we must protect matriculation funding and services that do move students to successful completion of educational goals.

- In 2006 the Board of Governors & the California Community Colleges adopted a Strategic Plan which included a focus on basic skills development. Research has established that a significant number of high school graduates and entering community college students are not prepared for college-level courses. Because orientation, assessment, and counseling are strong components of successful remedial programs, cuts to matriculation would severely restrict the community college’s ability to provide developmental education services to under-prepared students. If support services are cut, accountability successes will also be diminished and fewer gains will be reported in the Accountability & Reporting frameworks for community colleges (AB 1417 & AB 194).

**II. Support the California Community Colleges**

**System Advocates** – the “real life” impact of the 2009 May Revision Proposal will set the colleges back decades to come. Community colleges are California’s greatest pathway out of poverty and they are a strong investment for taxpayers. The California Community Colleges pay the greatest return on investment at a time when the California economy is more at risk than ever in our history.

**California cannot afford additional cuts to its investment in the California Community Colleges.** By cutting community colleges, the state will shut down, for decades, California’s largest pathway out of poverty, driving more than 250,000 Californian’s toward unemployment and downward spirals of economic despair. This further economic downturn will exacerbate the state’s future budget shortfalls. The current budget proposals would dismantle the colleges and bring us back to 1982 funding levels thus impacting every community in the state.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY MATRICULATION OUTCOMES

Various studies demonstrate that 60-80% of those students who received Matriculation Services persisted Fall to Spring as compared to 40-60% persistence rate of those students who did not receive services.

Reception of Matriculation services have also demonstrated the following results: higher GPA's, degree and certificate completions at a higher rate, higher numbers of transfers to four year institutions, and more successful entry into the job market.

### BACKGROUND:

- AB 3, The Seymour-Campbell Matriculation Act of 1986 established the provision of Matriculation Services for credit students. In the 1997-98, AB 1542 and AB 107 appropriated funds established budget language that extended the provisions of Matriculated services to noncredit students as well.
- The purpose of Matriculation is to provide students with timely, accurate information and help them to define reachable, realistic academic and vocational goals. Matriculation enhances access to the California Community Colleges and promotes and sustain s the efforts of students to be successful. Matriculation's goals are to ensure that all students successfully complete their courses, persist to the next academic term, and achieve their educational objectives.
- In 1986, Matriculation was comprised of seven components: ***Admissions; Orientation; Assessment; Counseling/Advising; Follow-up; research and Evaluating; Coordination and Training.*** An eighth component, ***Prerequisites, Corequisites and Advisories on Recommended Preparation*** was added in 1992 and Matriculation provides services for this component through shared responsibility with the Educational Services Division and campus faculty.
- During the 1996-97 legislative session, new legislation and budget language (AB 1542, AB 107) extended the provision of matriculation services to students enrolled in designated noncredit classes, courses and programs. Students enrolled in designated noncredit course categories would be able to use these curricula and student support services (primarily ***Orientation, Assessment, Counseling***) to move in to the workforce through skill acquisition or job placement services. Many community college students begin as noncredit students and bridge to higher education following their preparation in noncredit courses & programs; this is especially true of students from under-represented and economically disadvantaged populations.