

CCC NEWS



California Community College News

Welcome to the most recent edition of the California Community College (CCC) News presented by MAAS Companies. Our intent is to share current information and/or subjects of general interest regarding the California Community College system. Please share the CCC News with others and we encourage and appreciate any feedback, comments and suggestions about this publication and content from our readers.

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Up-side to Being Underappreciated

The Department of Education has been tracking graduation rates at colleges for decades. Many colleges have complained that those rates have been inaccurate. In 2008, Congress directed the DOE to study the matter. The results of that report produced thru the 15-person Committee on Measures of Student Success were released this month.

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Articles of Interest

A new report published by Mt. San Antonio College presents new information on the challenges to meet the educational needs of the local workforce in filling the jobs that will be created in the next five years.

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Free community college may have sounded like a fantasy as the CCC News has previously highlighted, but it is now a reality. Governor Brown's signing of Assembly Bill 19 means that the "California College Promise" is now part of state law. Community colleges are not automatically eligible for additional funding without steps taken that include partnering with local school districts to prepare students for college curriculums.

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Assembly Bill 19 was signed into law last month, but the State Legislature to still needs to fund this effort before 114 community colleges are able to waive tuition for first-year full-time students taking 12 or more units per semester. That won't take place until next year's budget is debated and finalized.

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Controversial Assembly Bill 705 was signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown allowing more community college students to bypass remedial English and math courses and begin in college-level English and math. Many college faculty groups remain opposed to this effort.

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We posted an article in the October edition of the CCC News that is worth resisting after the Governor's signing of the Bill last month. Assembly Bill 705 requires community colleges to consider high school GPA or coursework to determine if a student is ready for college level Math and English classes – abandoning the past reliance on standardize testing. CSU faculty are still opposed to Bill 705.

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Coming & Goings

Dr. Debra Fitzsimons, the former Vice Chancellor of Business Services who has served as the interim chancellor since July 2016 at South Orange County CCD (Saddleback & Irvine Valley Colleges), has announced that she will be leaving her position and the District effective December 31st for personal reasons. She plans to return home to Pennsylvania to be closer to her family, particularly her aging parents. The District is in the process of hiring a new chancellor .

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Finally

The debate continues on how many courses a community college student will take before the risks outweigh the benefits? Researches tracked this scenario among 45,000 students attending the 30 community colleges in the State of New York with some interesting results.

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