



Building momentum for postsecondary success

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CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES JOIN NATIONAL STRONG START TO FINISH NETWORK

The Strong Start to Finish initiative, now impacting nearly 3.7 million students, supports systems and institutions to bring equity to higher education by supporting change at scale in policy and practice across the nation.

(SACRAMENTO, Calif.) – May 20, 2019 – [Strong Start to Finish](#) (SSTF), a national initiative aimed at significantly increasing the number and proportion of low-income students, students of color and returning adults who succeed in college math and English, welcomes the addition of California Community Colleges to its network of systems implementing developmental education reforms. Spearheaded by the California Community College Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO), with additional implementation support from the Foundation for California Community Colleges, CCCCCO will partner with technical assistance providers to support 72 college districts and 114 public two-year institutions to scale policies and practices evidence has shown will increase the number and proportion of students who complete math and English gateway courses in their first year of study.

CCCCO is the largest site to join the collaborative network, which includes City University of New York (CUNY), Ohio Department of Higher Education, State University of New York (SUNY), University System of Georgia (USG) and Arkansas Community Colleges (ACC) and the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. CCCCCO was invited to join the Strong Start network based on its success-to-date implementing developmental education reforms. The addition of CCCCCO’s 114 colleges significantly increases the footprint of SSTF’s work, which will now impact an estimated nearly 3.7 million students across 250 institutions.

“We are thrilled to welcome 114 California Community Colleges to our network of like-minded scaling sites,” said Christopher Mullin, SSTF Director. “There is a growing trend in higher education to better support all students – regardless of their academic preparation, income level, age or race – and California was selected to join our five other scaling sites based on the great work they’re already doing to date. With their participation, not only do students in California stand to gain access to more of the resources they need to succeed, but students across the country will benefit from California’s leadership and best practices.”

Strong Start to Finish is a network of like-minded individuals and organizations from the policy, research, and practice spaces who’ve come together for one reason – to help all students, not just the select few, find success in postsecondary education. SSTF is an initiative supported by Education Commission of the States, a nonpartisan organization that conducts research, delivers reports, provides expert counsel on the full spectrum of education policy issues, and convenes education leaders across the 50 states to learn from each other.

SSTF’s partnership institutions maintain flexibility to execute programs they believe will work best for their students. CCCCCO will focus on five priority action areas to implement change:

- Eliminate the use of a single placement test score for placing students into remedial instruction;
- Establish and expand math pathways across all institutions;
- Provide guidance and implementation strategies to support English as a Second Language (ESL) learners;
- Use quantitative and qualitative information to understand and advance reforms;
- Integrate developmental education reforms within guided pathways.

Additionally, CCCCCO has committed to bring multiple strategies already in place to scale, including the elimination or substantial reduction of stand-alone remedial courses; support for institutions to develop a policy of using multiple measures for placement in gateway math and English; development of a protocol for creating a curriculum for co-requisite and pre-requisite courses; and more through a collaborative approach inclusive of convenings, workshops, and professional development opportunities.

“Many of the recommended reforms from Strong Start to Finish are already well on their way within California’s Community Colleges,” said Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley. “This invitation is a recognition of our progress and alignment with national best practices. It shows we’re on the right track. This support – and the learnings we will gain from our colleagues across the country –will inform our work so we can better and more quickly meet the needs of our diverse student population.”

For more information on Strong Start to Finish, please visit www.strongstart.org or info@strongstart.org.

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California Community College institutions implementing developmental education reforms to improve student success and reduce equity gaps among traditionally underrepresented student groups include:

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| • Allan Hancock College | • Feather River Community College District (CCD) | • Orange Coast College |
| • American River College | • Folsom Lake College | • Oxnard College |
| • Antelope Valley College | • Foothill College | • Palo Verde College |
| • Bakersfield College | • Fresno City College | • Palomar College |
| • Barstow Community College | • Fullerton College | • Pasadena City College |
| • Berkeley City College | • Gavilan College | • Porterville College |
| • Butte College | • Glendale Community College | • Reedley College |
| • Cabrillo College | • Golden West College | • Rio Hondo College |
| • Canada College | • Grossmont College | • Riverside City College |
| • Cerritos College | • Hartnell College | • Sacramento City College |
| • Cerro Coso Community College | • Imperial Valley College | • Saddleback College |
| • Chabot College | • Irvine Valley College | • San Bernardino Valley College |
| • Chaffey College | • Lake Tahoe Community College | • San Diego City College |
| • Citrus College | • Laney College | • San Diego Mesa College |
| | | • San Diego Miramar College |
| | | • San Joaquin Delta College |

- City College of San Francisco
- Clovis Community College
- Coastline Community College
- College of Alameda
- College of Marin
- College of San Mateo
- College of the Canyons
- College of the Desert
- College of the Redwoods
- College of the Sequoias
- College of the Siskiyou
- Columbia College
- Contra Costa College
- Copper Mountain Community College
- Cosumnes River College
- Crafton Hills College
- Cuesta College
- Cuyamaca College
- Cypress College
- De Anza College
- Diablo Valley College
- East Los Angeles College
- El Camino College-Compton Center
- El Camino Community College District (CCD)
- Evergreen Valley College
- Las Positas College
- Lassen Community College
- Long Beach City College
- Los Angeles (LA) City College
- LA Harbor College
- LA Mission College
- LA Pierce College
- LA Southwest College
- LA Trade Technical College
- LA Valley College
- Los Medanos College
- Mendocino College
- Merced College
- Merritt College
- MiraCosta College
- Mission College
- Modesto Junior College
- Monterey Peninsula College
- Moorpark College
- Moreno Valley College
- Mt San Antonio College
- Mt San Jacinto Community College District (CCD)
- Napa Valley College
- Norco College
- Ohlone College
- San Jose City College
- Santa Ana College
- Santa Barbara City College
- Santa Monica College
- Santa Rosa Junior College
- Santiago Canyon College
- Shasta College
- Sierra College
- Skyline College
- Solano Community College
- Southwestern College
- Taft College
- Ventura College
- Victor Valley College
- West Hills College-Coalinga
- West Hills College-Lemoore
- West Los Angeles College
- West Valley College
- Woodland Community College
- Yuba College