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INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS CLEAR STUDENT PATHS TO COLLEGE SUCCESS

New Report Highlights Strategies to Prepare a Highly Educated Workforce to Meet the Increasing Demands of California's Economy

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Educators are taking enormous initiative to improve college access and success, according to a report released today by the Campaign for College Opportunity which highlights fifteen ‘Practices with Promise’. These programs are making a difference for students today and show promise for the state’s future. As California’s policymakers and education leaders improve educational and economic competitiveness, they may look to the themes and the lessons learned from these working solutions.

“What is exciting is the degree to which educators are breaking down barriers between their schools, colleges, and universities,” according to Abdi Soltani, Executive Director of the Campaign for College Opportunity. “What these programs have in common is they simplify the process of going to college, they forge connections between high schools, community colleges, and universities, and they clear a path for student success.”

A prime example is the Las Positas College program “Headstart on College”. Through partnerships with local high schools to align career technical education classes – such as automotive and health – with introductory courses at Las Positas College, students receive both high school and college credit.

“By giving a student appropriate college credit while they’re still in high school, it sends the message that you are capable of doing college-level work,” according to Birgitte Ryslinge, Dean of Academic Services, Vocational Education & Economic Development at Las Positas College. And, in fact, high school students who have earned just three credits of college-level work are far more likely to go on to college than their peers.

Many of California’s education difficulties stem from students coming out of high school without the basic skills they need to be successful in college. Many of the fifteen programs highlighted in “Practices with Promise” address this issue, including Math Jam, a 2-week intensive summer program followed by first semester support at Pasadena City College.

More than 80% of Pasadena City College’s incoming students place into pre-college-level math – a statistic that is common to many schools in the California’s Community College system.

-- see next page --

The Math Jam program is a model for how existing programs within a school can work together to build students' math confidence, ease their transitions to college, and retain them long enough to learn how to succeed at the college-level.

“It can take time to transform unproductive high school behavior – as much as a year or more,” according to Brock Klein who Co-Directs the College’s Teaching and Learning Center which houses the Math Jam program. Math Jam helps to address the culture clash between high school and college, gives students a measure of success, and dramatically increases their chances of staying in school.

At each step of the way, from high school to community college, community college to 4-year institutions, and from college to the workforce, the quality of California’s future workforce will depend, in large part, on how well the state’s schools aid students in getting from one point to the next.

The report highlights a number of key recommendations including tangible initiatives and strategies that could be built upon for wider statewide impact. These recommendations include:

1. *Start Early* – Make an early commitment of college and financial aid to middle school students.
2. *Ease Transitions* – Build strong links between the state’s K-12 schools, community colleges, and universities and align “end of high school” standards with “start of college” standards across the board.
3. *Make Clear Paths* – Create structured paths from college enrollment to completion which integrate instruction, student services, and financial aid in the first year.
4. *Promote Basic Skills* – Provide services that focus on math and English readiness and use intensive programs to help college students master basic skills.
5. *Track Progress* – Invest in systems to analyze student progress over time.

Practices with Promise is a unique opportunity for educators across the state to put forward emerging solutions for improving college access, success, and affordability based on their own experiences at their institutions.

Last spring, 120 practices were submitted from across the state. After extensive review by education leaders and advocates, 15 exemplary practices are being highlighted for their quality, innovation, and potential to shed new light on what California education leaders and policy-makers need to do, and on what California’s educators are already doing quietly but effectively in their schools and communities. All 120 submissions offer valuable insights and are included in the full report.

Media interested in more information, participating in the telephone briefing or receiving a copy of the Executive Summary or full Report should contact Blake Uveling at: (510) 645-1362 or blake@collegecampaign.org or visit www.collegecampaign.org/practices.

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**SUMMARY OF THE 15 HIGHLIGHTED ‘PRACTICES WITH PROMISE’
IN CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, AND UNIVERSITIES**

MESA	Statewide
<i>Submitted by the Statewide MESA Program</i>	
University of California’s Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP)	Statewide
<i>Submitted by the UC EAOP</i>	
Intersegmental Professional Learning Councils	Statewide
<i>Submitted by the California Partnership for Achieving Student Success (Cal-Pass)</i>	
California State University’s Early Assessment Program (EAP)	Statewide
<i>Submitted by California State University</i>	
Accelerated College Transfer	Los Angeles, CA
<i>Submitted by West Los Angeles College</i>	
Increasing Access via Mentoring (I AM) Program	Los Angeles, CA
<i>Submitted by the University of Southern California, Center for Higher Education Policy Analysis (CHEPA)</i>	
Math Jam: Jumpstarting Success in Prealgebra	Pasadena, CA
<i>Submitted by Pasadena City College</i>	
Pell Advance Project	Long Beach, CA
<i>Submitted by Long Beach City College</i>	
Compact for Success	San Diego, CA
<i>Submitted by San Diego State University and Sweetwater Union High School District</i>	
Digital Bridge Academy	Watsonville, CA
<i>Submitted by Cabrillo College</i>	
FastForward to Academic Success	Fresno, CA
<i>Submitted by the CSU Office of the Chancellor and CalState Fresno</i>	
Modesto City Schools College Counseling Program	Modesto, CA
<i>Submitted by Modesto City Schools</i>	
Headstart on College: Curriculum Alignment & Credit by Examination	Livermore, CA
<i>Submitted by Las Positas College</i>	
Integrated Learning Center (ILC)	Livermore, CA
<i>Submitted by Las Positas College</i>	
The Design Shop	Livermore, CA
<i>Submitted by Las Positas College</i>	

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