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Roadmap to Help California's Post-Secondary Education Systems Recover from Pandemic More Equitable and Better Positioned to Serve All Students

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA—A new report and set of recommendations aimed at helping California's post-secondary systems recover from the pandemic and better serve the state's students was submitted to Governor Gavin Newsom and the [Governor's Council for Post-Secondary Education](#) today.

[Recovery with Equity: A Roadmap for Higher Education After the Pandemic](#), was produced by a [Recovery with Equity Taskforce](#) established last summer by Dr. Lande Ajose, Governor Newsom's senior policy advisor for higher education, in consultation with the Governor's Council for Post-Secondary Education.

"California's post-secondary systems cultivate talent that is needed to chart our state's course to future economic prosperity," said **Governor Gavin Newsom**. "This roadmap will help our colleges and universities build up systems that will better serve all students. Preparing Californians with the training and education necessary to engage in high-quality, in-demand jobs will drive a recovering, vital economy. Strengthening our postsecondary systems while eliminating disparities of credential and degree attainment by race and geography will lead to a stronger and more resilient California for All."

Dr. Lande Ajose, who also chairs the Governor's Council for Post-Secondary Education, said, "Student success in higher education is critical to the health of our state and regional economies. We need to ensure that California's systems of higher learning fully recover from the pandemic and thrive, while keeping students our number one priority. Their success is inextricably tied to the future of California."

The *Roadmap for Higher Education After the Pandemic* includes a series of interconnected, interdependent recommendations developed by the Recovery with Equity Taskforce to help post-secondary systems emerge from the pandemic stronger and better able to help all learners thrive. The recommendations in the report are organized to advance four guiding principles:



Fostering Inclusive Institutions: Institutional cultures and approaches to teaching and learning that work for all learners, especially those left behind.

1. Improve Faculty, Staff, and Administrator Diversity
2. Cultivate Inclusive, Engaging, and Equity-Oriented Learning Environments
3. Retain Students through Inclusive Supports

Streamlining Pathways to Degrees: An integrated statewide system for admission and transfer to provide clear, easy-to-navigate pathways to degrees.

4. Establish an Integrated Admissions Platform
5. Streamline and Unify the College Admission Process
6. Develop a Common Course Numbering System

Facilitating Student Transitions: High-touch, high-tech guidance and improved academic preparation for college access and success.

7. Provide High-Tech, High-Touch Advising
8. Support College Preparation and Early Credit

Simplifying Supports for Student Stability: Resources and structures packaged and simplified to help students meet basic, digital, and financial aid needs.

9. Establish an Integrated Admissions Platform
10. Subsidize Internet Access for Eligible Students
11. Improve College Affordability

The Recovery with Equity Taskforce that developed these recommendations included [California and national experts in higher education equity and innovation](#). Taskforce deliberations were informed by interviews and focus groups with a broad swath of students and K–12 and post-secondary educators, as well as leaders in civic organizations, local governments, nonprofits, and workforce development.

The Recovery with Equity Taskforce report concludes with actions that leaders in California can pursue to support California's post-secondary institutions recover from the pandemic more equitable and resilient than before, and more aligned with the economic needs of the state.

What members of the Governor's Council for Postsecondary Education are saying about the Recovery With Equity Taskforce Report:

“California's public higher education system has long served as an engine for economic vitality, innovation, and social mobility across the state. As we work together to recover from the impacts of the pandemic, we must ensure that we continue to expand access to our universities while improving affordability and excellence.”

— **Michael V. Drake, President, University of California**

“Consistent with our quest to continue improving educational outcomes at the California State University, and expanding access to a top-quality university education for students throughout California, I welcome the Taskforce's recommendations, and commit to redoubling our efforts to ensure all students thrive despite the challenges faced during the pandemic. The Taskforce's forward-thinking recommendations will ensure that the CSU prepares future generations of diverse leaders of all backgrounds who will lead and contribute to the Golden State's recovery as well as its robust growth, benefitting all communities, in the years to come.”

— **Joseph I. Castro, Chancellor, California State University**

"This roadmap will put our education ecosystem on a trajectory to recover with the commitment and resolve needed to close opportunity gaps for students of color and educate the workforce that will fuel economic growth that lifts up all communities. The Governor's goals and Taskforce's recommendations complement the California Community Colleges [Vision for Success](#), the system's strategic blueprint that puts student equity and achievement at the core of all our work."

— **Eloy Ortiz Oakley, Chancellor, California Community Colleges**

"Post-pandemic recovery will be critical for all of California's higher education sectors, and we must strengthen our collaborations for our students and communities. The private, nonprofit sector of California's higher education system serves a public purpose and is dedicated to ensuring inclusive, streamlined pathways for student success."

— **Kristen Soares, President, Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities**

"California's recovery must maintain a laser focus on closing equity and opportunity gaps experienced by communities who were already at an historic disadvantage and were hardest hit by the pandemic. That means all of our institutions and systems of education must be proactive and prioritize strategies—and reimagine structures—that level the playing field for all students. Collaboration between our K-12 and higher education systems will be essential to eliminating barriers and fostering the talent and success of all learners. The recommendations in this roadmap are not only ambitious, but actionable."

— **Tony Thurmond, State Superintendent of Public Instruction**

"California benefits when all students can reach their full potential. The thoughtful recommendations in *Recovery with Equity: A Roadmap for Higher Education After the Pandemic* are aimed at the critical priorities of increasing student success while closing equity gaps and disparities in degree attainment. In building back from the pandemic, we should expand pathways and supports that accelerate success in K-12 and reduce barriers to postsecondary access and completion, including Linked Learning pathways and dual credit options that smooth transitions to our systems of higher education, and systems alignment that will create streamlined paths to students' goals and will yield long term benefits to our state."

— **Linda Darling-Hammond, President, California State Board of Education**

"We are all stronger when equity gaps are closed and all Californians can develop their talents and fulfill their potential. California is home to the most high-quality, diverse workforce in the nation thanks, in part, to our systems of higher education. This roadmap charts a course for California, as we work to better position our state and workforce for the changing realities and demands of the future. I encourage all leaders in California's business community to review these recommendations, as we work together to build a stronger and more resilient state economy."

— **Dee Dee Myers, Senior Advisor to the Governor and Director of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz)**

The Governor's Council for Post-Secondary Education envisions an integrated statewide system for post-secondary education that better serves California's diverse students as part of a cradle-to-career educational continuum. Learn more at CAPostsecondaryForAll.org.