



2018-19

# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

**STUDENT SENATE FOR  
CALIFORNIA  
COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

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SSCCC

## ABOUT US

The Senate is recognized by the California State Legislature, Office of the Governor, California Student Aid Commission, and other state agencies as the official voice of students in legislative and policy advocacy. The Senate shall maintain legislative and policy advocacy as one of its mission's three pillars of engagement and act through Legislative Affairs Directors from each Region to facilitate the involvement of students in the same.

The Senate is recognized by California Community Colleges Board of Governors and Chancellor's Office as the official voice of students in system participatory governance in accordance with Title 5, §50002. The Senate shall maintain system participatory governance as one of its mission's three pillars of engagement and act through System Affairs Directors from each Region to facilitate the involvement of students in the same.

The Student Senate for California Community Colleges works to promote and safeguard access for current and future students to California public higher education in accordance with the Master Plan for Higher Education through system participatory governance, legislative and policy advocacy, and regional support and development.

## SSCCC MISSION

Student Empowerment



## State LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Student Senate in consultation with the regions and the legislative affairs committee has developed the following state legislative priorities for the 2018-2019 legislative cycle.

- \*\$2SRF Amendment
- \*Student Trustees - Full Vote
- \*Financial Aid - Adjusting for the full cost of attendance.
- \*Food Insecurity
- \*Housing Insecurity
- \*Ethics Training for Colleges
- \*Extended Library Hours
- \*Increased Resources for Low Income Students
- \*Increased Resources for Veterans
- \*Increased Resources for Current & Formerly Incarcerated Students.

The Student Senate for California Community Colleges have identified the following federal legislative priorities in consultation with the legislative affairs committee.

- \*Support for Financial Aid Programs
- \*Support for DACA Students
- \*Opposition to Provisions of Department of Education Title IX Rules

## FEDERAL Advocacy

## AS IT STANDS

# \$2SRF

The Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC) has virtually no presence in the state capital, and little to no ability to lobby on legislation that affects California Community College (CCC) students. The student senate has no staff support which has resulted in increasing difficulties in maintaining a full board. Currently the SSCCC is completely student ran, with little to no professional support. With this demanding workload and inadequate support this often results in members of the board resigning out of frustration. Inadequate funding has resulted in the SSCCC becoming increasingly dependent on the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO). The voice of CCC students should not be held by the CCCCCO but by the statewide student organization. Our student leaders need more administrative support both at the state-wide level and at the regional level.

## \$2SRF

# THE ASK

The SSCCC is seeking an amendment to education code section 76060.5 so that the California Community College Student Representation Fee is administered in the same way as the CSU System's SRF. The SSCCC would like to see the fee changed so that is implemented at all 115 California Community Colleges as an opt out fee without the need to hold local student body elections.

**Update:** Currently in the state assembly as AB 1504 (Medina).





## Full Vote STUDENT TRUSTEES

Currently students are under represented on their local board of trustees. While local boards are required to have student members they are only awarded an advisory vote and denied certain privileges of full board members. The SSCCC is seeking an amendment to California Education Code that would allow for Student Trustees to have a full vote on their local board in order to ensure adequate student representation in district decision making processes.

Too many students struggle to meet even their most basic needs. Thousands of students, across all college segments, are homeless and cannot reasonably feed themselves on a day-to-day basis. Our low-income students who are barely having their basic needs met are then forced into taking out more debt than their higher income peers. The stresses of living day to day and paycheck to paycheck prevent our neediest students from fully realizing the benefits of our quality higher educational institutions in California.

We need to see investments that:

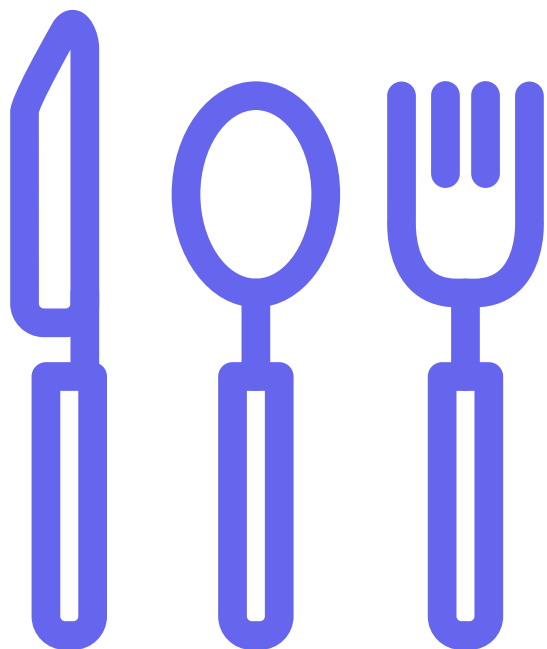
- \*Truly address students' basic needs for all college students,
- \*Addresses not just tuition costs but the full cost to attend college for all low-income students
- \*Enables more individuals to finally receive state aid, and
- \*Gives more flexibility to students looking to graduate quicker by utilizing summer courses.

## FINANCIAL AID

The full cost of attendance







## Basic Needs

# FOOD INSECURITY

56% of our students in the community college system are experiencing food insecurity. The SSCCC is asking the legislature and the governor to make a serious investment in addressing food insecurity on our community college campuses. No student should have to choose between eating or buying their text books.

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35% of California Community College students experience housing insecurity, an additional 14% of students in the community college system are completely homeless.

With limited resources on campuses especially in the more rural portions of our state the Student Senate for California Community Colleges is asking both the state legislature and the governor to make a serious investment in increasing funding for programs that address housing insecurity in the community college system.

# HOUSING INSECURITY

## Basic Needs





## College Personell **ETHICS TRAINING**

Often our community college administrators, board members, staff and faculty are faced with ethical dilemmas with little to no training on how to adequately handle these issues. The Student Senate for California Community Colleges is asking that the legislature take steps to provide funding for and require ethics training at community colleges.

The community college system is unique in the fact that most of our students do not have the luxury of attending class on a traditional schedule. Despite most of our students working a standard 9-5 and taking classes at odd hours most of our campus libraries do not have hours that adequately address students in this population.

The Student Senate is asking that the legislature require that community college districts evaluate and adjust library hours on a regular bases, so that all community college students have equitable access to campus resources.

## **LIBRARY HOURS**

Student success





## Resources

# LOW INCOME STUDENTS

California Community Colleges serve the lowest income students in the state, yet we often receive inadequate resources to properly serve our impacted student populations. The SSSCC is asking that the state legislature prioritize low income student needs.

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Our service men and women have made great sacrifices for our country, California would not enjoy the freedoms we have today without the brave men and women of the United States military.

Many of our veterans return home with inadequate resources to succeed during the transition back to civilian life. The Student Senate for California Community Colleges recognizes that the Veteran population on our campuses is currently under served, and is asking the state legislature to support our student veterans with legislation that will address the needs of veterans in California.

## VETERANS

### Resources







## Currently & Formerly **INCARCERATED STUDENTS**

The Student Senate is asking the legislature to author legislation that will;

1. Increase access to education for currently and formerly incarcerated students.
2. Provide funding for programs for both currently and formerly incarcerated students.
3. Create reentry programs that focus on an educational model.



## 2019 ADVOCACY COALITION

In late 2018 the Student Senate for California Community Colleges signed on as a member of a multi-state student federal advocacy coalition. Other members include the Cal State Student Association, University of California Student Association, the State University of New York Student Assembly, The City University of New York University Student Senate, and the University of Florida Student Government.



The State University of New York  
Student Assembly



The Student Senate for California Community Colleges' federal legislative priorities were developed with our 2019 coalition in mind. Our coalition realized that we stood a better chance of getting our points across as a united front versus trying to bring these changes about on our own.

## FEDERAL Priorities



## Support for **FINANCIAL AID**

As Congress continues to deliberate on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, it is essential that students have confidence that the financial aid programs they rely on will be protected. During the 2017-2018 academic year, 7 million students nationally received pell grants. Furthermore, programs like the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) and Work Study help millions more achieve success at colleges and universities across the United States. Low interest Stafford Loans allow students to fill gaps in funding without having to take high interest private loans. Without this vital federal support, millions of American college students would struggle to complete their academic programs. ***We urge Congress to ensure that these programs are protected and strengthened for America's next generation of college students.***



## Support for **DACA** **STUDENTS**

The Trump Administration's decision to revoke President Obama's executive order granting legal status to hundreds of thousands of undocumented young people has created uncertainty and fear for college students across the country. While the legality of the administration's decision continues to be litigated in the courts, DACA recipients cannot be certain of their future in the only country many of them have ever known. These young people, who entered the United States through no fault of their own, are an integral part of the American fabric and should be given certainty that they will always be welcome in this nation. ***Congress should act to establish legal status for DACA recipients legislatively, which would end the uncertainty created by the ongoing judicial process.***



## Opposition to Proposed Changes

# TITLE IX RULES

In November 2018 the Department of Education announced new rulemaking on federal Title IX policy. Students worry that some of the proposed revisions could make our campuses less safe, and make it more difficult for victims of sexual and interpersonal violence to seek justice. Students are particularly concerned about the elimination of the ability of victims to seek an on-campus judicial proceeding in response to incidents that occurred off-campus. Whether an assault occurs on or off campus has no bearing on the trauma it can inflict, a trauma amplified by continued interaction with the perpetrator. Survivors of such violence, ought to have the option to seek both criminal and on-campus judicial processes. Eliminating the ability of survivors to seek justice through such processes for off-campus assaults may lead fewer survivors to come forward and seek justice. Students also worry that the 60 day comment period ordered by the Department of Education on the new rules, which has overlapped with winter breaks across the country, has been insufficient for students to meaningfully influence the process.

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