

True College Cost – Overview Video Transcript

Narrator: Our legacy is one of providing once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to students from all ethnicities, backgrounds, and ages throughout California. California community colleges enrich lives and prepare students for careers.

Senator Leyva: Our community colleges are the real driver for new jobs and for our economy.

[On screen: Senator Connie Leyva (D-Chino) – Author, SB 291]

Senator Bradford: They're really the portal to having good paying jobs, being workforce ready. They play a tremendous role.

[On screen: Senator Steven Bradford (D-Gardena) – Co-author, SB 291]

Dr. Todd: Our vision for success in California is not just about having students complete their degrees but it's about entering the workforce and having the jobs and the dreams that they desire.

[On screen: James Todd, Ph.D. – Assistant Superintendent & Vice President of Instruction, San Joaquin Delta College]

Narrator: The California College Promise Grant was the first program in the nation to waive tuition and help more than 1 million eligible students each year enroll in college and pursue their higher education goals.

Alexis Zaragoza: Without the California College Promise Grant, I wouldn't even be able to go to college.

[On screen: Alexis Zaragoza, Student, Modesto Junior College and Student Representative, California Community Colleges Board of Governors]

Narrator: We've been leaders in providing universal access, creating affordable tuition, and providing high-quality education pathways.

[On screen: We serve 2.1 million students across 115 colleges. We waive tuition annually for more than 50% of our students.]

Narrator: But for all we do, it's imperative that we do more, much more.

[On screen: 29% of UC and 51% of CSU students began at a California community college.]

Iiyshaa Youngblood: The College Promise Grant goes to covering tuition but it doesn't cover like fees or books or anything like that.

[On screen: Iiyshaa Youngblood, Moreno Valley College (CSU San Bernardino) and President, Student Senate for California Community Colleges]

Senator Leyva: The Promise Grant is a wonderful program. It just doesn't go far enough.

Senator Jackson: Living isn't just the cost of one's tuition. We need more than just the Promise Grant in order to ensure that these students are going to be able to finish their education and go on into the workforce.

[On screen: Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara) – Co-author, SB 291]

Dr. Todd: What's important is that we're fair to community college students. If you go to a CSU or a UC, you are almost guaranteed more financial aid. How can we make sure that we serve all the students in California?

Narrator: While the number of students enrolled in California community colleges vastly outnumbers UC and CSU, going full-time can be more expensive in terms of the total cost for community college students than UC or CSU students.

[On screen: University of California 217,000 students; California State University 472,000 students; California Community Colleges 2.1 million students]

[On screen: A UC student's total cost is 59% more than a community college student's total cost but UC students get 300% more grant aid. The Institute for College Access & Success]

Pamela Haynes: We need to do a better job in recognizing that our students need financial aid that is not just driven by tuition fees.

[On screen: Pamela Haynes – Vice President, California Community Colleges Board of Governors]

Steve Trapp: The real cost of college education goes beyond tuition. It's everything else that goes along with being a full-time student.

[On screen: Steve Trapp – Student, Modesto Junior College]

Narrator: For our low-income community college students to succeed and create brighter futures for themselves and their families, they desperately need more financial aid.

[On screen: With an additional \$3,000 in grant aid, 65% of community college financial aid recipients would be extremely or very likely to enroll in more college credits. The Institute for College Access & Success.]

Daniel Fitch: When it comes to getting an education, for me it's everything. I want to have a good job, set a foundation for myself as well as my family.

[On screen: Daniel Fitch – Student, Modesto Junior College]

Dr. Todd: Financial aid for community college students in California is imperative. We can't leave talent behind in our diverse populations that we serve.

Senator Leyva: That's why I'm so excited to be introducing legislation along with many co-authors to make sure that the entire cost of community college education can be covered.

Senator Jackson: Our success is dependent upon the success of our next generation of leaders, our next generation of workers. And it's critically important that we assist them.

Narrator: Today is the day when meaningful change towards increasing financial aid for California community college students begins.

Chancellor Oakley: Our students represent the great diversity of our state and are the backbone of our workforce. That's why it is so important for the state of California to invest in our students. And the best way to invest in our students is by increasing the amount of financial aid available to them. What we're asking is a greater investment in all low-income students and specifically California community college students.

[On screen: Eloy Ortiz Oakley – Chancellor, California Community Colleges]

Narrator: Join us in creating a better foundation for California's future today. Contact your legislator about expanding financial aid at California community colleges and add your voice at TrueCollegeCost.com.

[On screen: Join us in creating a better foundation for California's future today.]

[On screen: California Community Colleges logo and TrueCollegeCost.com]

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Video Duration: 4:00