

True College Cost – Real Cost of College Video Transcript

Narrator: We've created pathways for every student to help them achieve their goals. With more than 2.1 million students across 115 campuses, the California community colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation.

Pamela Haynes: If you look at community colleges or two-year institutions, California has taken the lead.

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

[On screen: By 2020, employment in the state will have grown by 16 percent, which amounts to 2.6 million new jobs. - Public Policy Institute of California.]

Senator Jackson: We're able to really help create that workforce that's necessary for the next generation and the generations to follow.

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

[On screen: California community colleges are a critical gateway to the jobs of today and the future.]

Narrator: Most low income students start their higher education journey at a California community college. This means many of our students work multiple jobs to make ends meet which prolongs their time to completion and entry into the job market.

James Todd: The biggest barrier for students and their completion and success at California community colleges is financial.

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

[On screen: Students who work more than 15 hours per week are much less likely to graduate than those who work fewer hours. - The Institute for College Access and Success.]

Pamela Tuzza: The California College Promise Grant waives the tuition, the enrollment fees for students, but it's actually no money in the student's pocket.

[On screen: Pamela Tuzza, Financial Aid Officer, Sacramento City College.]

Jessie Ryan: It's not enough to remove the real barriers to college for so many students grappling with affordability.

[On screen: Jessie Ryan, Executive Vice President, Campaign for College Opportunity.]

Alexis Zaragoza: I'm lucky enough to receive the Promise Grant. And even though that's amazing, tuition being paid for is just not enough.

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

[On screen: 3 in 10 students surveyed were solely responsible for their housing costs. - The Institute for College Access and Success.]

Narrator: Despite having the lowest tuition in the nation, the true cost of attending a community college is much greater for many of our struggling students.

Senator Leyva: We know that tuition is not the entire cost of going to college.

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

Megan Prell: When you're going to school, it's a lot more expensive than you would originally think.

[On screen: Megan Prell, Former Student, Cypress College (National University).]

Steve Trapp: There can be projects here at school that I would have to complete that needed money to finish the project.

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

Iiyshaa Youngblood: Sometimes you just like got to get creative so there's been semesters where me and some of my classmates like split the cost of a textbook.

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

Senator Bradford: Housing is a major cost barrier to going to college.

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

Carlos Garcia: Sometimes what my mother or father make is not enough, so I try to do my best to help out.

[On screen: Carlos Garcia, Student, Sacramento City College]

James Todd: What happens when a car breaks down? What happens when students don't have enough to eat? How do they handle some of their housing insecurities? These are problems that we have not solved in California for community college students.

Narrator: Now is the time to expand the amount of financial aid available to California community college students. We need to create a fair and transparent system that serves all students but especially low-income community college students where increased financial aid will truly be life-changing.

Senator Leyva: We want to make sure that all students going to community college can complete their education and move into that good paying job to support themselves and their family.

[On screen: With an additional \$3,000 in grant aid, 66 percent of financial aid recipients would be extremely or very likely to enroll in more college credits. - The Institute for College Access and Success.]

Daniel Fitch: You do as much as you can with what you have, but everybody needs help at the end of the day. I'm not afraid to ask for it because I'm willing to work hard to get to it.

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

Eloy Oakley: Our students struggle with the real cost of attending college. Things like books, transportation, food and housing all add up and make it very difficult for our students to complete their higher education goals. What we're asking for is a greater investment in all of our 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 legislature 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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