

True College Cost – Work/School Balance Video Transcript

Narrator: With more than 2.1 million students across 115 campuses, the California community colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation.

Jessie Ryan: California is the fifth largest economy in the world, and the California community college system recognizes that without a laser-focus on improving policies that help students to reach their college dreams we cannot maintain our economic competitiveness.

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

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

Senator Leyva: We need to find a way to make sure that community college is what it has always been and that is affordable.

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

[On screen: Transfer students from California community colleges account for 48 percent of UC bachelor's degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.]

Narrator: Thanks to the California College Promise Grant, roughly 50% of all community college students pay no tuition.

Chad Funk: There are so many times that I'll talk to students and they'll say, you know, the financial aid I got, it made the difference. It's the reason why I stayed in college.

[On screen: Chad Funk, Associate Vice President for Student Services, American River College.]

Megan Prell: If I hadn't received financial aid, I wouldn't have gone back to school.

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

Steve Trapp: If it wasn't for my financial aid to help me get through it, I wouldn't be finishing now.

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

[On screen: More than 90 percent of the total college cost for community college students is textbooks, transportation and living expenses. - The Institute for College Access and Success.]

Narrator: While we've kept college tuition low and waived this cost for more than 1 million low to moderate income families, the current structure of financial aid creates unfair obstacles and barriers.

Pamela Haynes: The financial aid that students get is really geared toward first-time, full-time students.

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

Iiyshaa Youngblood: And sometimes you have to like prioritize like what comes first like your education and maintaining like a good GPA or providing for your family.

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

[On screen: Community college students are twice as likely as 4-year college students to reduce their course load to work more hours. - The Institute of College Access and Success.]

Senator Jackson: It becomes very difficult for them to be able to get their education and work sometimes multiple jobs.

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

[On screen: Students who work more than 20 hours per week are much less likely to graduate. - The Institute for College Access and Success]

Alexis Zaragoza: For a lot of students, you can't balance everything, and it's one or the other which is why a lot of students end up dropping out.

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

Narrator: Financial challenges are the greatest obstacle to college completion. If we increase the amount of financial aid that goes to California community college students, they won't have to sacrifice their future.

Senator Leyva: Not just tuition but books and food and transportation and housing, that way we can help all of our students at community college be successful.

Jessie Ryan: We know that until we can ensure our students have access to that financial aid alongside the Promise Grant, our college promise, our dream of a true affordability for California community college students won't be realized.

[On screen: Financial aid must help community college students cover the total cost of college.]

Narrator: Real changes in the amount of financial aid community college students can receive must not wait.

Pamela Haynes: We've got a tremendous amount of folks throughout California who want to increase the skills they need to better their lives and to better their family's lives but they need help doing that.

Senator Bradford: I think it's vitally important that we assist our low-income families and students in continuing their education.

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

[On screen: By 2030, California is projected to have a shortfall of 1.1 million college graduates to fill critical jobs that need highly skilled employees. - Public Policy Institute of California.]

Eloy Oakley: We see an investment in financial aid as a direct support of the future of this great state.

So I hope that you will join me in advocating for more resources for 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.

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

Narrator: Contact your legislator about expanding financial aid at California community colleges and add your voice at TrueCollegeCost.com.

[On screen: California Community Colleges logo and TrueCollegeCost.com. Brought to you by the California Community Colleges.]

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