



The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

DATE: March 21-22, 2016

SUBJECT: California Community Colleges-University of California (CCC-UC) Transfer Partnership		Item Number: 2.6	
		Attachment: No	
CATEGORY:	Student Services and Special Programs	TYPE OF BOARD CONSIDERATION:	
Recommended By:	 Pamela D. Walker, Vice Chancellor	Consent/Routine	
		First Reading	
Approved for Consideration:	 Brice W. Harris, Chancellor	Action	X
		Information	

ISSUE: The Chancellor’s Office Student Services and Special Programs Division seeks to strengthen California Community Colleges-University of California (CCC-UC) Transfer Partnership with the University of California with the goal of increasing UC student diversity by supporting community college students, counselors, and faculty.

BACKGROUND: The California community college transfer pathway remains the most vital avenue of higher education access to the bachelor’s degree in the nation. Nearly one in five of all community college students in the U.S. attend a California community college and many of these students have an educational goal of earning a two-year degree then transferring to a UC campus. Although UC currently enrolls more community college transfer students than any other system of its caliber in the nation, there is a pivotal need to increase the racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity of its California community college transfers. *(Background cont.)*

RECOMMENDED ACTION: It is recommended that the Board of Governors approves the proposed strategies and funding to build upon and strengthen California Community College transfer pathways to the University of California, with special emphasis towards serving under-represented students.

(Background cont.)

California's economy and culture demand an educated populace that represents the broad diversity of the state. This partnership is designed to build upon advancements in the CCC and UC systems in a collective effort to strengthen the transfer pathway, especially for students who might not otherwise have access to higher education, including students from low-income backgrounds, underrepresented racial/ethnic groups, first in their family to attend college, U.S. military active-duty, veterans, and former and current foster youth.

CONTRACT AGREEMENT: The California Community College Chancellor's Office proposes to enter into a contract (C15-0070) with the Regents of the University of California, Office of the President for up to \$2,600,000 from June 1, 2016 to February 28, 2018. The funding sources will be from the Student Services and Success Program and Student Equity funds. This is a noncompetitive contract due to the contractor being a higher education entity. The contract will include four strategies identified below.

FOUR STRATEGIES:

1. *Advancing UC's Transfer Pathways*

UC's recently established Transfer Pathways offer a guided academic pathway for community college students, providing them with an opportunity to prepare for the same/similar major at all nine undergraduate UC campuses. Research reveals that students who begin college with an academic plan are more likely to reach their educational goals. UC's Transfer Pathways give students a plan of action by preparing for multiple campuses—a key admissions strategy in the current competitive admissions environment thus, students increase their chances for admission to UC. In addition, students who complete these courses will be well prepared to graduate from the UC approximately two years after transfer. These ten pathways, with another 11 to follow by the fall of 2016, represent the most popular majors for transfer students.

Resources would be made available to the Chancellor's Office Communications Division to publicize UC's Transfer Pathways to CCC students and counselors. Funds would be used to develop an outreach plan, making students aware of the UC Transfer Pathway.

2. *Building a Summer Bridge for Community College Transfer Students*

Bridge programs and academic "boot camps" have been shown to prepare students for the rigors of college, especially for students who may come from low-resourced schools or disadvantaged neighborhoods. These programs help students make a successful transition by providing intensive and focused training on how to be successful college students, while introducing them to the culture milieu of a college campus under the relatively low-stress environment of the summer.

Summer bridge models similar to those offered for entering freshmen can be easily and effectively translated to the transfer process. Students transferring from a community

college to a research-intensive institution, such as a UC, can be introduced to the culture, rigor, and intensity of a UC campus in a supportive atmosphere.

Under this program, one-week summer programs would be established at three UC campuses, each campus would have one with a designated major area (STEM major, Arts and Humanities and social sciences) in partnership with community colleges.

Approximately 500 students would be accommodated at each location, for a total 1,500 participants. Faculty and staff from the CCC and UC will designate eligibility and selection criteria for the program.

3. *Creating Regional Academic Advising Partnerships*

UC's Transfer Action Team report, in Recommendation 3, calls upon the UC to expand its partnerships with CCC to increase the diversity and geographic representation of CCC students who are interested in transferring to a UC campus. Currently, about one-half of all UC's transfer students come from only 19 California community colleges. To increase the number of CCCs that prepare substantial numbers of students for UC and to tap the extraordinary ethnic, racial, and geographic diversity of California's Community Colleges, a partnership is recommended between UC and the CCCs that will deploy outreach officers in underserved regions of the state whose primary focus will be serving CCC students wishing to transfer to UC, as well as supporting the work of CCC transfer center directors and counselors.

Under this proposal, a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process will award contracts to ten community colleges in ten areas of California (corresponding to the CCC's statewide service areas). Funds will support the presence of one full-time UC recruitment professional assigned to prospective CCC students in each region. These representatives will make sustained visits to community colleges throughout the region, helping students to prepare for college and eventual transfer to a UC campus. These representatives will also support the work of CCC transfer centers and counselors by providing in-serving training and professional development.

4. *Supporting CCC Counselors and Advisers—Professional Development to Advance California's Transfer Pathway*

CCC counselors reach far more prospective UC applicants than the UC can contact. More importantly, these student service professionals are a powerful constituency whose perspectives about the UC, therefore, their advice to students—substantially impact the effectiveness of UC's ability to encourage CCC students to its campuses. Leveraging the expertise of these professionals is essential to increasing the diversity of students who prepare for and enroll in a UC campus.

In the past, and in recognition of the pivotal role these professionals play in the lives of students, University of California Office of the President and the California Community College Chancellor's Office, have jointly sponsored professional development initiatives, such as the

Ensuring Transfer Success Counselor Institutes. This proposal aims to expand and deepen this relationship by offering a series of Webinars and in-person workshops exclusively devoted to the needs of CCC counselors and advisers. The goal is to increase avenues of personalized UC access—digital or local—to CCC counselors throughout the state.

BUDGET:

1. Advancing UC’s Transfer Pathway	\$100,000
2. Summer Bridge Initiative	\$600,000
3. Regional Advising Partnerships	\$1,750,000
4. Professional Development Initiative	\$150,000

Total Recommended Funding **\$2,600,000**