

2020



“ This is one of the most important organizations in the state. You hold our feet to the fire, you raise expectations, but, more importantly, you deliver because you’re constructive. And I just want to thank you for being pragmatic as you advance our collective ideals.”

- Gavin Newsom, Governor of California

WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED IN 2020

None of us could have predicted that the global pandemic would forever change our nation and state. Our colleges and universities dealt with the herculean task of moving swiftly to provide distance learning for our students and deliver a college education in an unprecedented way while facing significant challenges. Our work remained critical as the pandemic laid bare the need to protect our state’s most vulnerable students and ensure they had the resources and support needed to get to college and continue their education. In a difficult year, we are proud of the work we did.

WE PROTECTED COLLEGE ACCESS DURING COVID-19

Increased Financial Assistance During the COVID-19 Pandemic

We advocated to meet the urgent needs of California students as the COVID-19 pandemic hit, resulting in \$120 million for a community college COVID Response Block Grant, \$15 million in emergency aid for undocumented students, and critical maintenance of funding to support student retention and success.

Protected Access at the University of California

We advocated to end the University of California’s (UC) reliance on racially biased admissions tests, resulting in the UC Regents vote to unanimously end the requirement for the SAT and ACT in admissions beginning in 2023.

Increased Access to College-Level Courses at Community Colleges

Thanks to legislation we sponsored and our ongoing oversight, community college students are now accessing transfer-level courses at more than twice the rate they did prior to changes in course placement policies. These changes have also narrowed the gaps in access to transfer-level courses for Latinx and Black students, who had been disproportionately placed in remedial courses prior to our legislative effort to end unfair and deficit-minded placement practices.

Protected Access at the California State University

In coalition with over 100 policymakers, civil rights, business, education, and community organizations, we encouraged the California State University (CSU) to reconsider a harmful change in admissions policy that would decrease the number of Black and Latinx high school students eligible for the university.

WE INCREASED RACIAL DIVERSITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Gubernatorial Appointments Becoming More Inclusive and Diverse

After calling out the need for greater diversity in higher education by gender and race/ethnicity in our *Left Out* publications, we celebrate Governor Newsom’s recent higher education governing body appointments which include more Black, Latinx, Asian American, and women leaders, along with leaders from the Inland Empire and Central Valley, two historically underrepresented regions.

CSU Chancellor and UC President Make History

We were proud to engage in the search for a new UC President and CSU chancellor, emphasizing the need for leadership that reflected the diversity of our student bodies and a commitment to closing racial gaps in access and completion for our students. We were gratified to see the UC select their first Black president and the CSU select the first Mexican-American and first leader from California’s Central Valley as Chancellor.

WE HOSTED CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS WITH HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERS

Our **Advancing Racial Equity in Higher Education speaker series** gave us the opportunity to champion needed student-centered solutions and provided higher education leaders with a platform to share how they will work to strengthen public higher education, increase racial equity, and protect college opportunity amid challenges brought on by the pandemic.



We hosted a historic conversation with over 1,000 participants, featuring Governor Gavin Newsom, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, California Community Colleges Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley, California State University Chancellor Joseph I. Castro, and University of California President Michael V. Drake on the challenges facing students and the road toward a more racially inclusive higher education system for California.

Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis joined us to discuss highlights of her work on the University of California Board of Regents and California State University Board of Trustees and her vision for protecting and expanding college opportunity.



Then-Secretary of State, now US Senator Alex Padilla, Assemblymember Marc Berman, and Student Senate for California Community Colleges President Stephen Kodur joined us to celebrate the success of the Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT), discuss the importance of the ADT in closing college opportunity gaps for Black and Latinx students, and honor the community college and CSU campuses that are leading the state in supporting ADT students.

Women leaders serving on California public higher education governing boards joined us to discuss their critical role in advancing policies that eliminate racial inequity at the University of California, California State University, and California Community Colleges, and why racial/ethnic and gender diverse appointments are key to change.



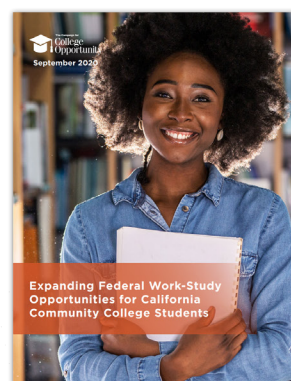
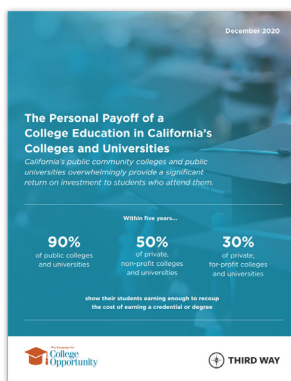
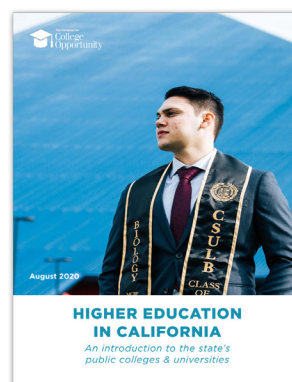
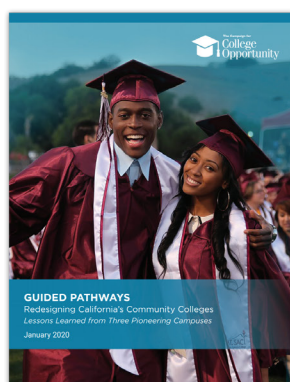
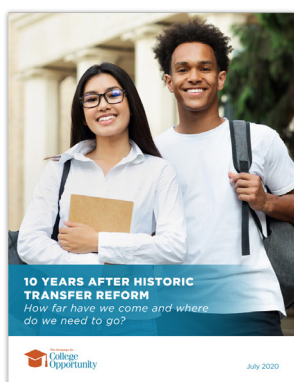


We hosted our inaugural Dean's List Reception to honor and recognize state legislators and staffers who championed policy aimed at increasing college access, affordability, and success. Honorees included: Senators Richard Roth, Connie Leyva, and Benjamin Allen; Assemblymembers Jesse Gabriel, Monique Limón, and Evan Low; and Kimberly Rodriguez, Policy Director for Senate President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins.

Our Take a Lunch Break event series connects newly elected and appointed leaders with higher education community advocates. These events gave us and our partners the opportunity to get to know the leaders' priorities for higher education. The 2020 Lunch Breaks included UC Merced Chancellor Dr. Juan Sánchez Muñoz, California Community Colleges Board of Governors member Joseph Williams, and California Student Aid Commission member Steve Ngo.



WE INCREASED PUBLIC AWARENESS AND OFFERED SOLUTIONS TO CRITICAL HIGHER EDUCATION ISSUES WITH NINE NEW PUBLICATIONS





Engaged
19,126
California civil rights,
legislative, business,
and student leaders
in advocacy and
events



356
news articles
featured our work



Engaged
12,067
followers across
our social media
platforms

WE RAISED \$3.5 MILLION THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS FUNDERS

Art for Justice Fund
AT&T

Atkinson, Andelson,
Loya, Ruud & Romo

Ballmer Group

Estela Bensimon

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

California Community
Foundation

Center for Urban Education

College Futures Foundation

Quinn Delaney
ECMC Foundation

Evelyn & Walter Haas Jr.
Fund Lumina Foundation

Marin Community Foundation

Michelson 20MM Foundation

Rosalinde & Arthur
Gilbert Foundation

Sand Hill Foundation

Sierra Health Foundation

Southern California Edison

Stuart Foundation
The Angell Foundation

The California Wellness
Foundation

The James Irvine Foundation

The Kresge Foundation

The Mayer and Morris
Kaplan Family Foundation

Yellow Chair Foundation



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