California State University Ends Use of SAT and ACT for Eligibility and Admission

Today, March 23, 2022, the California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees made a historic decision to end the use of standardized testing for eligibility and admission to the university system. Today's decision follows a national and statewide movement urging a more equitable admissions process that does not rely on racially biased admissions tests that do not accurately reflect the talent and potential of students.

The value of a four-year degree continues to be critical for the success of individual students and the collective economic success for California. With continued demand for a more highly educated workforce, college and state leaders must work to increase access while intentionally closing racial equity gaps in college going and graduation rates. We commend the CSU for its bold commitment to equitable opportunity for all students. By removing barriers to the university, we ensure that students can access the transformative power of a four-year degree and secure the economic prosperity of our state.

"I am a proud product of the CSU, and I would've been a product even sooner if I could've gotten in as a freshman. Because of the enrollment barriers that I faced and lack of tools offered to me as a student, I wasn't equipped to have entry into the CSU. But I know that my story is the same for many all across California," said trustee Yammilette Rodriguez as the Board deliberated the decision.

Student trustee Krystal Raynes spoke to the undue stress standardized testing causes on students: "I remember saving up my lunch money to take both the PSAT and SAT because my parents didn't know what that was and didn't want to spend money on me taking a test. Meanwhile, I knew students that were prepping with tutors in junior high, and so there's definitely an economic gap there."

"A single 3-hour test on a Saturday morning has never measured a student's full talent or potential. What these tests have measured is the unfair advantage that privileged and wealthier students have, including access to expensive test prep, which focus on how to 'game' the test instead of measuring the knowledge gained by students in their high school courses," said Michele Siqueiros, president of the Campaign for College Opportunity. "As the nation's largest four-year university system, educating over 480,000 students, the CSU is sending a clear message to Black, Latinx, low-income, and first-generation students that they belong in California higher education."

Despite today's historic victory, there is still more work to ensure racial equity in admission AND enrollment. In our 2021 report, *Shut Out: The Need to Increase Access to the University of California and California State University,* we found that insufficient seats available at the CSU means that too many eligible students are turned away, with Black and Latinx students bearing the greatest burden.

We call on the CSU to innovate solutions that expand capacity across its 23 campuses. We also urge the Legislature to support Governor Newsom's call for a 70 percent college-attainment goal for the state and multi-year compacts with the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) to expand access, improve completion, and close racial equity gaps with a multi-year investment in

capacity funding. Through this comprehensive approach, California can become a bastion of college access and success.

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