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**California Community Colleges Join Webinar to Gear Up for
Ambitious “Student Success Initiative” Goals**

Contact: Dana Quittner (619) 206-5738 dquittner@iebcnow.org

Encinitas, CA -- To get help in meeting the ambitious new goals set out in California’s “Student Success Initiative,” community colleges around the state will participate in the [Institute for Evidence Based Change’s](#) (IEBC) [student equity planning webinar](#) on Friday, September 5 at 10 a.m. PDT. The webinar is the first in a series of online and on-site briefings and support for the state’s community colleges engaged in meeting the goals of the “Student Success Initiative.”

“Student Equity Plans” are key components of the initiative. Student equity plan updates for each community college must be submitted to the Chancellor’s office in the next few months. The student equity plan focuses on increasing college access, course completion, ESL and remedial education, attaining timely degrees and certificates, and improving transfers to four-year universities.

California Community College Chancellor Brice Harris called the Student Success Initiative “the most ambitious goal-setting ever taken” in the state. The Chancellor’s office will evaluate each institution’s “student equity plan” by measuring areas where equal opportunity is available to disadvantaged populations. Each college develops specific benchmarks and actions to address disparities that are discovered.

“Mandates alone simply will not deliver the ambitious changes California’s Community Colleges have set,” said Oxnard College President Dr. Richard Duran, who is also Past President of the National Community College Hispanic Council. “College leaders must engage and invest the entire college community in working together to understand performance data and adjust to meet these new goals. There is a real inside-out imperative to this work.”

“Increasing degree completion and transfers by nearly a quarter of a million students over the next decade will require a thorough understanding of how each college is performing in serving a diverse student body,” IEBC President and CEO Brad Phillips said. “That understanding is achieved by truly comprehending what the data tell us about how colleges are helping students to persist to completion.”

On the webinar offered at no cost to colleges, Phillips, Duran and IEBC team members will present successful ways to use data to make progress in key areas that include:

- Increase the system's completion rate for degree and transfer-seekers from 48.1 percent to 62.8 percent and completion rate for students in career technical education programs from 53.9 percent to 70.3 percent by the time the class of 2023-24 graduates.
- Increase the number of students who successfully complete remedial instruction, needed by 75 percent of the student population.
- Improve policies, and practices that keep students on track to graduate.
- Increase the number of students who prepare educational plans at the beginning of their academic careers.
- Increase the number of students who earn degrees under the Associate Degree for Transfer program.
- Tighten the connection between K-12 and higher education.

"This is an exciting opportunity for our state, recognizing the critical role community colleges play in a high performing higher education system that is committed to having its graduates prepared for successful careers and life," Phillips said. Phillips recently published [a piece in University Business](#) urging colleges and universities to move beyond compliance to meet the needs of today and tomorrow's students.

THE INSTITUTE FOR EVIDENCE-BASED CHANGE (IEBC)

The Institute for Evidence-Based Change is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving academic success for all students. IEBC helps education stakeholders use data and information to make informed decisions, improve practice, and increase student success. Learn more at www.iebcnow.org