



Central Valley
HIGHER EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

MOVING FORWARD

The Central Valley Higher Education Consortium (CVHEC)

is a non-profit, incorporated partnership of 27 accredited public and private colleges and universities, and community college districts. Serving a 10-county region from Stockton to Bakersfield, CVHEC was established in 2000 by the presidents and chancellors of the region's colleges and universities. Together, CVHEC's higher education institutions are making a positive impact on the educational achievement of our region.

CVHEC Board of Directors is working to develop policies and procedures that will help the Consortium align with President Obama's goals of putting the United States first in the world by 2020 by establishing a Degree Completion initiative that is designed to:

1. Increase college completion rates.
2. Improve policies and practices, and reduce barriers to timely degree.
3. Align curriculum and articulation across the region.

The Consortium will use collaboration and innovation in promoting articulation and transfer functions, including outreach and college readiness efforts. Supporting efforts to improve outcomes including productivity, student learning and success of underrepresented groups, advancing partnerships with business and industry, and providing incentives for inter-segmental collaboration, including course articulation. This proactive and strategic approach will advance student learning and success of the underrepresented students and create more "home grown" success stories that escalate gains in college attainment and completion over time.

STRATEGIC GOALS

1. Building and nurturing a college-going culture in which a higher percentage of our Valley residents obtain associates and bachelor's degrees.
2. Enhancing cooperation between two-year and four-year institutions to increase the student transfer rate.
3. Establishing an effective regional policy voice and advocacy for higher education in the Central Valley.
4. Encourage Valley higher education institutions to provide programs meeting the workforce preparation needs of Valley employers.
5. Supporting the effectiveness of our member institutions through appropriate collaborative initiatives including professional development and data collection and analysis.

MISSION

The Mission of the Central Valley Higher Valley Higher Education Consortium is to provide effective leadership that promotes programs, policies, and performance designed to increase higher education attainment by the people in the Central Valley.

VISION

The Vision of the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium is for the Central Valley to be a place where higher education is valued and attained by an increasing percentage of our population resulting in an enhanced quality of life in our region.

By accomplishing the above goals, the Consortium institutions will MOVE FORWARD in improving the quality of life for more residents in the Central Valley through higher education.



Message from the President

Dear Friends:

The Central Valley boasts many wonderful attributes as a place that attracts a wide variety of people. While we remain the world's agricultural epicenter, our Valley is also home to a number of emergent cities that people are increasingly calling home. With our excellent weather, wide-open spaces, and friendly, diverse population, it's no wonder why the Valley is one of the fastest-growing areas in the country.

While we have much to celebrate, the vast region still has much to accomplish. Chronic issues such as high unemployment rates and poverty continue to hamper our growth. Too many Valley natives are not pursuing the plentiful opportunities for higher education that regional institutions offer. Therein lays the mission of the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium.

As President of the Consortium, my goal is to promote collaboration with Valley colleges and universities to promote wider access to higher education and degree completion. Together, we strive to provide the tools students need to acquire the skills necessary to meet the workforce demands of today's competitive environment. The key to our economic future lies in the education of our people.

I'm proud to report that the Consortium is making significant headway in helping more Valley residents obtain advanced certificates and degrees.

Over the next year, we will continue to implement and fine-tune programs geared toward improving more timely degree completion, increasing access for those who may feel college is out of reach, and promoting transfer to four-year institutions.

Dorothy Leland

*President, Central Valley Higher Education Consortium
Chancellor, University of California, Merced*

Trailblazer: Improving graduation for more Central Valley residents

In the Fall 2010, the Consortium hosted a Summit to launch our major college degree completion initiative that aims to improve Valley transfer and positively impact students from Bakersfield to Stockton. "Our Consortium members agree that we must pursue a regional initiative that would reduce the time for Valley students to reach their goal of a college degree, this approach underscores our focus on better serving students and our history in building cooperation and collaboration among our member institutions," says Frank Gornick, Chancellor, West Hills College District.

Ensuring Central Valley students' success in College Completion is an effort all of our CVHEC members; public, private, California State University, and University of California take very seriously. With support from membership dues and community partners, we continue to inform, engage, and sustain efforts to promote higher education options and become a leader in the state in college degree completion. We have not lost sight of the fact that many of our graduates will be the first in their families to complete higher education and thus breaking a cycle of poverty that exists in our region.

CVHEC seeks to lead the way in implementing the historic transfer reform package, SB 1440 (Padilla) and AB 2302 (Fong). The model proposes a model of regional cooperation that is organized around the theory that improving degree completion is a viable economic recovery strategy. The Central Valley Degree Completion Model addresses a growing national need to redesign articulation agreements to improve completion rates and to reduce the time and costs of degree attainment.

The model has four points:

- (1) Establish region-wide articulation and transfer agreements
- (2) Utilize common course numbering systems
- (3) Structure curriculum that articulates region-wide and
- (4) Create incentives for transfer and degree completion.

Using a cadre of articulation design and implementation teams comprised of faculty leaders, articulation officers, admission, and outreach specialists, Phase I will focus on completion for degree programs in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and in Liberal Studies. Employment data and campus offerings will help to prioritize subsequent majors for replication.

Measurable outcomes include:

- (a) Completing region-wide articulation agreements
- (b) Raising the percentage of underrepresented groups who hold demand-driven degrees
- (c) Increasing the number of students in high demand and regionally offered majors who had all their courses articulated by the receiving institutions and
- (d) Improving transfer rates between two and four year institutions – public and private.

The Consortium members have all received communication from the State Chancellors office that by 2014 80% of community college degrees will need to be in compliance with Senate Bill 1440. As a result. This past year, Consortium leaders have coordinated intersegmental workshops and convenings to promote the work of colleges, CSU, & UC Academic Senates in endorsing a finalized Transfer Model Curriculum for nearly half of 16 majors. Central Valley colleges have accomplished phase 1 of the three-year process period that began in 2010 and are on track to meet the 2014 deadline.

STRATEGIC GOALS in PROGRESS # 2,3,4,5

The Central Valley Higher Education Consortium is Moving Forward Degree Completion

CVHEC Supports C6

The Central California Community Colleges Committed to Change (C6) Consortium is comprised of a subset of 13 community colleges from the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium united by a desire to focus on community college issues. The C6 Consortium started as sub-regional collaborative consisting of two to three colleges working together on grant-funded workforce development projects. Over the past 8 years, the C6 Consortium colleges have worked together on various projects, not singularly focused, rather with a collective point of convergence.

Workforce Initiative

CVHEC Executive Director, Dr. Barbara Hioco, provides a back bone for the C-6 Consortium efforts by establishing a team of faculty experts that are tackling innovative approaches and bold responses to the Department of Labor Community College and Career Training grant solicitation. The recent Department of Labor TAACCCT award marks an unprecedented opportunity for our region to develop accelerated, intensive programs of study so students earn a degree or credential of value in a reasonable amount of time, enabling them to enter the workforce of critical industries with growing occupational demand in an accelerated timeframe. This project is grounded in Valley expertise and input from regional employers and county Workforce Investment Boards which will transform the design, structure and delivery of education at 13 California Community Colleges. Our Board believes that our experience and research-based project can be replicated as a state and national model.

College Readiness Supported by the California Education Policy Fund

The C6 Consortium has identified **College Readiness** as a top priority. With funding support from the California Education Policy Fund, (CEPF), the Consortium has invested in the capacity building of region-wide Standards and Accountability that better prepare students to "be ready" and to succeed in college from the first assessment/placement test through graduation.

Through the funding made available by the CEPF, the C6 Consortium will work together to pilot a series of innovative approaches to educational policy reform efforts focused on College Readiness. The first priority is Assessment/Placement. Amid growing research that a narrowly focused policy change produces very limited outcomes or confounding results, the CVHEC strongly supports that our pilot policy reform efforts focus on interrelated educational areas and will utilize action-oriented advocacy as a comprehensive strategy to policy making. As a result we are working on a streamlined, **common assessment** system that will serve to revolutionize testing for students in the Central Valley region.

These policy experiments, that include common assessment, will allow state officials to truly determine a best practice for the entire state. The initial two years of the grant project will allow each college within the Consortium to design, pilot, and implement an assessment/placement test.

Actions toward the CEPF accountabilities include:

The C-6 Consortium faculty leaders organized a Convergence titled, "C-6 in Action," December 7-8, 2012 at the Visalia Convention Center. Keynote speaker included Congressman Jim Costa, who endorsed the work of the Consortium. On March 14-15, 2013 two-day follow up workshops were held at Willow International College Center in which early assessment tools were examined and a new assessment blue print was developed as a solution to the lack of a cohesive, aligned early assessment for the mobile, diverse population of the Central Valley. The common assessment work is complex and requires a lot of attention to detail, Sandra McGlothlin pointed out, a faculty leader, "It's not an easy thing to do. The Chancellor's Office requires a test to be put on probationary status in order for the C6 colleges to pilot the test. A lot of work goes along with it. I have been impressed with the level of participation we've had." Due the the work of all of our CVHEC collective efforts, the new assessment pilot will be introduced in the Fall semester, 2013.



EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Dr. Dorothy Leland, President
Chancellor, University of California, Merced

Dr. Frank Gornick, Chancellor
West Hills Community College District

Mr. Don Warkentin, Treasurer
President, West Hills College-Lemoore

Mr. Joseph Coppola, Secretary
Campus President, DeVry University

Dr. Joseph Sheley, Interim President
California State University, Stanislaus

Dr. Rosa Carlson, President
Porterville College

Dr. John Welty, President
California State University, Fresno

CVHEC BOARD

Dr. Sonya Christian, President
Bakersfield College

Dr. Deborah Blue, Chancellor
State Center Community College District

Dr. Dena Maloney, President
Taft College

Dr. Pamela Eibeck, President
University of the Pacific

Mr. Tony Cantu, President
Fresno City College

Dr. Ron Taylor, Superintendent/President
Merced College

Ms. Jill Board, President
Cerro Coso Community College

Dr. Pete Menjares, President
Fresno Pacific University

Mr. Stan Carrizosa, President
College of the Sequoias

Mr. Michael White, Interim President
Reedley College

Dr. Horace Mitchell, President
California State University, Bakersfield

Dr. Leslie Buckalew, President
Columbia College

Dr. Kathy Hart, Superintendent/President
San Joaquin Delta College

Ms. Jill Stearns, President
Modesto Junior College

Dr. Geoffrey Cox, President
Alliant International University

Ms. Carolyn Pierce
Heald College

Dr. Bernell Hirning, President
National University

Dr. Sandra Serrano, Chancellor
Kern Community College District

Dr. Carole Goldsmith, President
West Hills College-Coalinga

Dr. Joan Smith, Chancellor
Yosemite Community College District

Investing in Our Future

“of all the things worthy of support, the most important offer hope for a better life”

CVHEC has focused many resources and invested time into accelerating degree completion, removing barriers by streamlining curriculum, fully preparing students for employment, and aligning curriculum across the institution. CVHEC has not lost sight of the original goal of creating and nurturing college-going culture.

The Board of Directors consist of the actual CEOs of the Valley colleges and universities. Together they understand that the Valley has great needs in income levels, employment, education, and overall quality of life for its rapidly growing and increasingly diverse population. Our Board members are committed to investing in intersegmental solutions to problems of unemployment, poverty, and lack of degree completion. By MOVING FORWARD the agenda of degree completion, this in turn, will impact the economy and availability of skilled workers needed to grow the economy of the Central Valley region. Benefits of students receiving higher education in the Central Valley are numerous and include: Strong articulation and transfer agreements in place, commitment to access for all students, opportunities for students to earn a certificate all the way to doctorate degrees, teaching and learning environment for our students is personal, and academic affairs are committed to building and sustaining strong programs which help students achieve their aspirations, whether that means transferring to a four-year university or finding employment related to their college training.

The Central Valley Higher Education Consortium is a non-profit public benefit corporation that operates under the auspices of the California State University, Fresno Foundation founded by Fresno State President, John D. Welty in 2001.

Funding Sources

**Trust Account/ Membership Dues
(CVHEC member colleges & universities)**

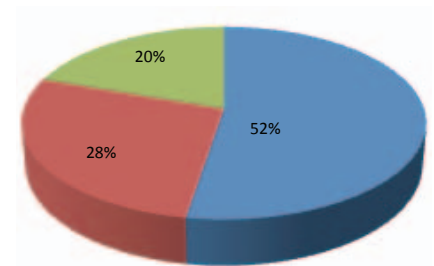
52%

**California Education Policy Fund –
College Readiness Project**

28%

**Department of Labor Grant –
C6 Trade Adjustment Assistance Project**

20%



■ Membership Dues
■ California Education Policy Fund
■ Department of Labor



Central Valley
HIGHER EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

MOVING FORWARD

For more information about the CVHEC mission and other related initiatives, visit our website: www.collegenext.org

To contact the editor of MOVING FORWARD: Email: Cheri Cruz: ccruz@csufresno.edu

Produced by Central Valley Higher Education Consortium