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NORTH ORANGE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Legislative Priorities

2024

ANAHEIM CAMPUS

NOCCCD Leadership



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Cypress, CA 90630
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Fullerton College
321 E. Chapman Ave.
Fullerton, CA 92832
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North Orange Continuing Education
noce.edu

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1830 W. Romneya Dr.
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State Legislative Priorities

The North Orange County Community College District has identified five critically important state legislative priorities to focus advocacy efforts on for 2024. Each priority has been carefully chosen to focus on results that will support the District's student population, staff, faculty, and long-term sustainability. These priorities allow staff and the District's advocates in Sacramento to act expeditiously on key state policy issues that impact the District and the students we serve; however, this is not an all-inclusive list of the issues the District will engage in and advocate on.



Meeting Labor Market Demands:

California Community Colleges (CCCs) partner with K-12 districts, universities, and industry to provide career ladder opportunities that are in direct response to the current labor market needs. It is vital that the State continues to support the CCC Baccalaureate Degree Program to help close equity gaps and improve student pathways to greater economic mobility. Additionally, continued investments in the Strong Workforce Program, Guided Pathways, Dual Enrollment, Entrepreneurships, Apprenticeships and Career Education, help our institutions ensure our students are trained, retrained, and prepared for the labor industries that are growing in our region. The District strongly supports ongoing investments and policies that support the CCCs in preparing our students for the workforce, boosting enrollment, and meeting labor market demands.



Basic Needs:

A research project completed in 2023 through a collaboration between the Community College League of California’s (CCLC) CEO Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce and the RP Group, identified significant gaps in students’ access to and ability to afford basic needs. Student success is directly impacted by access to basic needs, such as food, housing, technology, transportation, childcare, and mental health services. The District strongly supports any policy and/or budget-related efforts aimed at increasing the ability of all students—both credit and noncredit—to access basic needs and mental health services. The District supports policies and financial resources to provide students with access to technology, including access to broadband connections, computers, and software. The District supports the need for resources to successfully transition courses to online and distance platforms, including the need for professional development, training, and technology support for staff and faculty. The District supports maximum flexibility with the use of these funds to best meet the individual needs of our students.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Anti-Racism and Accessibility (DEIAA):

The District is committed to DEIAA initiatives with the goal of developing an intercultural proficient community of students, faculty, and staff. The District supports policies that systemically dismantle racism, and further advance equity, civil rights, racial justice, equal opportunity, and inclusion efforts for CCCs. The District is committed to creating a sense of belonging with our students, faculty, staff, and community. The District supports policies that further growth-minded practices in order to create a more diverse and equitable campus environment and workplace.



Noncredit:

The District has one of the largest noncredit centers in California: North Orange Continuing Education (NOCE). NOCE serves over 15,000 students a year through such programs as high school diploma, English as a second language, parenting, and career certification classes. Historically, there have been several examples of statewide community college initiatives implemented that have not adequately considered the special administration challenges inherent to noncredit education, even when that inclusion would have been a valuable addition to the initiative. The District will continue to advocate for equitable legislative and regulatory consideration for all students—credit and noncredit—and programs. The District supports noncredit programs preserving the same level of access to all eligible funding sources, including California Adult Education Program, Strong Workforce Program, and Student Equity and Achievement Program.



NOCCCD

Federal Legislative Priorities

The North Orange County Community College District has identified five critically important federal legislative priorities to focus advocacy efforts on for 2024. Each priority has been carefully chosen to focus on results that will support the District's student population, staff, faculty, and long-term sustainability. These priorities allow staff and the District's advocates in Washington, D.C. to act expeditiously on key federal policy issues that impact the District and the students we serve; however, this is not an all-inclusive list of the issues the District will engage in and advocate on.

Long-Term Financial Stability:

The California Community College system as a whole, including our District, is still recovering from a significant decline in enrollment. While the District continues to implement strategies that are regaining enrollment, it is important that policy makers understand a full recovery—if possible—will take many years. During this recovery period, it is critical that the State support the long-term financial stability of our system, including on-going financial investments in the PERS and STRS pension system. The State should also reevaluate the Faculty Obligation Number (FON) in a fair and equitable way, and consider updates to the 50% law. The District strongly supports all efforts to place an education facilities bond on the November 2024 statewide ballot. Finally, the District urges policy makers to consider increasing funding for scheduled maintenance.

Financial Aid and Fiscal Support:

Federal financial aid consists of student loans and need-based financial aid, such as the Pell Grant, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), and Federal Work-Study. The District will engage in advocacy on policy proposals that result in significant changes to federal financial aid, including efforts to make community college free for students, as well as policy changes related to accreditation, regulation reform, student loans, and additional transparency. It is important during these policy debates that any changes to law reflect California's diverse student population and needs. The cost to attend community college in California encompasses much more than just fees. All of the support needed to ensure access and success for a student's ability to achieve their educational goals, such as transportation, childcare, textbooks, housing and food should be taken into account. The District will advocate to ensure all students, both noncredit and credit, are able to access federal emergency grants and/or resources. Additionally, the District opposes any proposed cuts in the Labor-HHS-Education funding bill to federal funding streams that CCCs use to support student success, such as Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISI) and Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) funding.



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Cybersecurity:

Recent enactment of federal laws has provided an opportunity for state and local governments to conduct cyber vulnerability assessments. The federal funds will be in the form of grants and are for assessing cyber vulnerabilities. The District will engage on cybersecurity as a topic of interest given the amount of sensitive personal information collected on students and the vital role that the District plays in educating and developing the workforce in Orange County.

In 2023, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released a series of recommendations regarding how the federal government can streamline the reporting of cyber incidents to better protect the nation's critical infrastructure. Given the increase in ransomware attacks, including on public school systems, there must be adequate investment in cybersecurity. Lastly, the need to have an auditable and secure system to verify student enrollments and corresponding financial and sensitive personal information is critical. The District supports policies and resources to implement safe cybersecurity measures.



Congressional Funding Requests:

The District will be poised to advance local projects with our Congressional Representatives by requesting priority funding through Congressional spending requests. These projects may be focused on a variety of District-wide matters, such as student transportation concerns, educational programming, or veteran educational-related issues. The District will advocate for the support of these critical projects by requesting federal funding to ensure implementation.

Support Advocacy Efforts for Undocumented Students:

NOCCCD is committed to serving all students who can benefit from a post-secondary education, without regard to race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, immigration status, age, gender, language, socio-economic status, gender identity or expression, medical condition or disability. California's diversity is a great source of innovation and industry, making California one of the largest economies in the world and an economic engine for the United States.

California is home to more than two million undocumented immigrants and estimates find that approximately 75,000 undocumented students are enrolled in California's public and independent colleges and universities. Along with Governor Newsom and the California Community Colleges' Chancellor's Office, NOCCCD supports policy advocacy efforts that increase access and provide resources that support undocumented students' persistence in higher education, and urgently ask Congress to pass legislation to provide Dreamers with the permanent protection they need and deserve.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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