

# Stories of Innovations: The 2017 Community College Innovation Awards



**Community College League of California**

## Overview

California's 2016-17 budget included \$25 million for the *Awards for Innovation in Higher Education*. The program recognized innovations at California's colleges that are expected to reduce the time it takes students to complete degrees and credentials, reduce the total cost of attendance, or do both. The program specifically focused on the state's interest in efforts to:

- Redesign curriculum and instruction;
- Allow students to make progress toward completion of degrees and credentials based on their demonstration of knowledge and competencies, including skills acquired through military training, prior learning, and prior experiences; or
- Create programs that make college more affordable by making financial aid and other supports and services more accessible, including reducing the costs of books and supplies.

When selecting awards, the Committee considered innovations that improve the outcomes of students from groups that are historically underrepresented in higher education, such as low-income students, first-generation college students, students from underrepresented minority groups, students who are current or former foster youth, students with disabilities, and students who are veterans. The Committee also considered innovations that use technology in ways that are not common in higher education.

The following is an inspiring compilation of programs colleges throughout the state have developed to further advance the mission of student success.

### **The Committee on Awards for Innovation in Higher Education selected the following colleges for awards:**

#### Awards of \$2 million:

- » Cuesta College
- » Evergreen Valley College
- » Los Angeles Trade-Technical College
- » Los Rios Community College District
- » Palomar Community College District
- » Santa Monica Community College District
- » Shasta College
- » Sierra College
- » South Orange Community College District
- » West Hills Community College District
- » Riverside Community College District

#### Awards of \$1 million:

- » Laney College
- » Los Angeles Valley College
- » West Hills Community College District

# Programs Receiving a \$2 Million Innovation Award

## CUESTA COLLEGE

### *Degree Accelerator*

Through a joint effort with the Paso Robles Joint Unified School district, Cuesta College's Degree Accelerator program will provide students with the opportunity to receive an Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) within one year after graduating high school. Students at Paso Robles High School in the program will be able to earn up to 36 general education credits while enrolled in high school as part of an expanded dual enrollment program. By shortening the time to degree completion, this program will allow students to graduate from college earlier and expand the number of needed baccalaureate degrees in the state.



## EVERGREEN VALLEY COLLEGE AND SAN JOSE CITY COLLEGE

### *Innovate Evergreen*

Evergreen Valley College will redesign its Computer and Information Technology certificate program to incorporate flexibly placed instruction and assessment using a competency based education format. This will permit the college to offer a transformational approach to higher education that leverages students' prior

knowledge while providing rigorous support for underprepared students. It will reduce both cost and time to graduation, and also be implemented at San Jose City College.

## LOS ANGELES TRADE TECH COLLEGE

### *Pathways to Academic Career and Transfer Success*

In collaboration with the Center for Urban Education at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles Trade Tech will adopt policies that will shorten the time-to-degree completion and increase student success. Los Angeles Trade Tech will map core competencies to curriculum, strengthen pathway support and craft competency based education professional development programs. Combined, these innovations will help students obtain their certificates or degrees by helping them focus on classes that close the gaps in their existing skills needed to succeed in their career and in the workforce.

## LOS RIOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

### *Align Capital Region*

Los Rios Community College District (LRCCD) will invest in innovative course scheduling software that permits students to plan their desired course schedule from the time they first enroll at a LRCCD college through their time spent at California State University, Sacramento. It will empower students to take charge of their educational plans not just when they are at a community college, but also when they are at LRCCD's regional four-year university partner. It will contribute towards increased curriculum alignment throughout the Sacramento region and integrated counseling among the area's high schools, LRCCD and California State University, Sacramento.

## **PALOMAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**

### ***Schedule Redesign***

The current schedule design at Palomar College is cafeteria style – it offers too many choices and does not provide enough guidance to students. Palomar will establish intentionally scheduled learning communities for an entire 2-year pathway that will result in either an associate's degree or transfer. It will provide a manageable schedule for students in impacted STEM courses, integrate academic support, such as tutoring, into the program and accelerate those students through a 2-year pathway to transfer to a four-year institution.

## **SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**

### ***MyEdPlan 2.0: A Student-Centered SMC Redesign***

Santa Monica College will partner with Arizona State University to redesign its educational planning tool, MyEdPlan, into a comprehensive framework for student success that leverages technology with new and existing student success initiatives. It will adapt technology tools to the community college environment such as online major maps, career advising applications and student tracking mechanisms. It will increase completion rates for all students and particularly benefit those who are low-income or first generation in their family to attend school.

## **SHASTA COLLEGE**

### ***Accelerated College Education Through Online Degrees***

Shasta College will redesign curriculum, instruction and accelerate time to degree completion through two new programs: Accelerated College Education (ACE) and Bachelor's Through Online and Local Degrees (BOLD). These programs are targeted towards students who are low income or first generation and have barriers to transitioning to a four-year university. They will create distinct pathways through intersegmental partnerships that allow students to obtain degrees locally in an accelerated format. This will save money, lead to gainful employment for Shasta's students, and improve the economy of the area.



"Today's action recognizes the hard work, innovation and creativity of our higher education campuses in improving the success of their students."

- Michael Cohen  
Director of the California Department of Finance

## SIERRA COLLEGE

### *ReEngineering for Student Success (R4S)*

Sierra College will continue to invest in its *ReEngineering for Student Success (R4S)* program, which utilizes a Guided Pathways model that create seamless transitions and clear pathways for its students. R4S serves all 25,000 students at Sierra College through 16 different program elements that incorporate strong partnerships with high schools, local colleges, and the business community. By removing silos and integrating federal and state resources, R4S has closed achievement gaps for the 77% of Sierra College students who are historically underrepresented or economically disadvantaged.

## SOUTH ORANGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

### *Veterans Credit Articulation Track*

The Veteran Credit Articulation Track (V-CAT) will create an interactive military to college completion toolkit incorporating career planning, transfer and policy resources to assist student veterans. It will develop a system that will help determine what credits they are eligible to receive due to their service at Saddleback College, and nearby California State Universities Long Beach, Fullerton and Pomona. By developing a framework that will increase the number of prior learning credits awarded to student veterans, V-CAT will establish a formal process and procedure that recognizes military experiences that count toward college credit.



## WEST HILLS COLLEGE, COALINGA AND LEMOORE

### *Quick Path Program*

In partnership with San Joaquin Delta College, the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning and *AcademyOne* will develop and implement a web-enabled prior learning assessment that will leverage lessons from similar regional and statewide initiatives to award college credit for prior learning. It will utilize technology that will benefit military veterans, and nontraditional or low-income students.

## RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

### *Foster Youth Support Network*

The Foster Youth Support Network combines the resources of the Riverside Community College District, regional school districts and community organizations to improve services for foster youth. It establishes a framework that provides a comprehensive safety net of support services for foster youth from high school through college. It is also a forum for all foster youth service providers to share ideas, research and develop best practices to improve foster care services in the greater Riverside area.

# Programs Receiving A \$1 Million Innovation Award

## LANEY COLLEGE

### *Ensuring Equity and Success in the STEM/Biology Discipline*

Laney College proposes to employ a 24/7 accessible technology-enabled learning framework to achieve 100% of student equity and success in the STEM discipline, beginning with biology. This will be a three-phased approach that will bridge the digital divide by bringing high quality technology to a cyber learning environment. By increasing the ability of underrepresented students to utilize technology to achieve their educational goals, this program will decrease time to degree completion and increase student success rates at Laney College.

## LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

### *LA Reverse Transfer Program*

With its district partners at Mission and Pierce College and the California State University, Northridge, Los Angeles Valley will develop a degree audit program that track college credits to ensure students who have completed significant college coursework will be awarded the degree they deserve. It will develop policies and procedures that will create a regional reverse transfer program that will award associate degrees to eligible students who have transferred to California State University, Northridge but have not applied for the degree. By retroactively awarding these degrees this program will provide a boost to the student's economic potential and serve as a model as best practice for other retroactive degree programs statewide.

## WEST HILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

### *Coding Academy*

With BitWise Industries, GeekWise Academy and Shift3 Technologies, West Hills Community College District will design and implement a program to train software developers. This public-private partnership will bring much needed educated technology workers to Fresno. West Hills has aligned this program with local businesses to craft educational programs to teach workers much needed skills. This industry relevant curriculum will help students obtain good jobs and contribute to the Central Valley's economy.

