Access to Excellence:
Progress Report 2011-2013

CSU Board of Trustees
Item 2 Committee on Educational Policy
May 20-21, 2014
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January 1998: Board of Trustees unanimously endorsed a systemwide planning framework called Cornerstones that articulated the values, priorities and expectations for the CSU.

May 2008: Evolving from Cornerstones, a new systemwide strategic plan was developed and approved by the Board of Trustees.

This strategic plan, known as Access to Excellence, has guided the 23 university system for the last seven years.

Access to Excellence set forth three priorities for the institution:
1. Increase student access and success;
2. Meet state needs for economic and civic development, through continued investment in applied research and addressing workforce and other societal needs; and
3. Sustain institutional excellence through investments in faculty and staff, innovation in teaching, and increased involvement of undergraduates in research and in their communities.
To operationalize *Access to Excellence* eight commitments were developed providing a framework for CSU initiatives:

1. Increase student access and success;
2. Plan for faculty turnover and invest in faculty excellence
3. Plan for staff and administrative succession and professional growth
4. Improve public accountability for learning results
5. Expand student outreach
6. Enhance student opportunities for "Active Learning"
7. Enhance opportunities for global awareness
8. Act on the CSU's responsibility to meet postbaccalaureate needs, including those of working professionals
Access to Excellence: Strategic Initiatives

As the economic, political and social environment has shifted in California, *Access to Excellence* has remained flexible in the context of new and evolving initiatives.

Four major initiatives exemplify the nimble nature of the strategic plan and are extremely important projects in the CSU:

- Graduation Initiative
- SB 1440
- Early Start Program
- Voluntary System of Accountability: *Contributions to the Public Good*

Work continues on many new and ongoing initiatives in the CSU.

More work needs to be done but the CSU has made great strides since the last progress report in October 2011.

New initiatives will continue to be formulated in response to changes in higher education creating greater access and evolving traditional ways of doing the work of teaching, research and service.
Challenges ahead are both daunting and exciting. Meeting them will require the leaders in the CSU and the state to focus on how best to use the institution’s assets to meet the needs of our students.

To meet the future needs of California, the CSU will need to be strategically linked with:
- State policy leaders
- Business community
- California leaders
- Philanthropic community
- Four education segments

The CSU’s commitments and initiatives will help position California for 21st century success.
The CSU is a leader in high-quality, accessible, student-focused higher education. With 23 campuses, almost 447,000 students, and 45,000 faculty and staff, we are the largest, the most diverse, and one of the most affordable university systems in the country.

More information on the CSU's role and impact »

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Eight CSU campuses were ranked among the nation's top 100 colleges and universities by TIME magazine, based on new criteria proposed by the White House that emphasizes accessibility, affordability and completion. CSU Long Beach, Fresno State, CSU Stanislaus, CSU Los Angeles, CSU Dominguez Hills, CSU San Bernardino, CSU Bakersfield and CSU Northridge were ranked. Due to the robust amount of financial aid offered at the CSUs, students from all walks of life can attend college.
In May 2008, the Board of Trustees adopted Access to Excellence as the new strategic plan for the California State University (CSU). Access to Excellence focuses on the interaction of the CSU with the economic, political, and social environment of the State of California. It is a public statement of the key principles and core values of the institution, framing eight broad commitments as the basis for setting the CSU’s priorities and measuring its success.

Access to Excellence Website

All reports are available on the dedicated Access to Excellence webpage at:
http://www.calstate.edu/AccessstoExcellence
Thank You

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