

Campaign for College Opportunity

Practices with Promise

**A COLLECTION OF WORKING SOLUTIONS FOR
COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY**

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About Practices with Promise:

- Acknowledge effective practices in education.
- Disseminate these working solutions to educators, state policymakers, and the media.
- Solicited practices that improve college access, student success, affordability, and institutional efficiency.
- Call for submissions reached every education segment in the state.

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Response to Practices with Promise:

- Total of 120 submissions.
- 15 practices highlighted through a comprehensive review process.
- Reviewers included education leaders and advocates.

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Response to Practices with Promise:

- The majority of submissions were from programs focused on providing:
 - Pre-Collegiate Student & Parental Academic Support Services
 - Collegiate Academic Support Services
- Other types of programs submitted include:
 - Curricula Addressing Specific Learning Objectives
 - Programs Aimed at Increasing Institutional Efficiencies
 - Career Path or Career Recruitment Programs
 - Transfer Programs
 - Learning Communities
 - Early College Commitment or Early College Access
 - Financial Aid & Scholarship Programs

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Highlighted Practices:

- **Accelerated College Transfer** – West Los Angeles College
- **California State University's Early Assessment Program (EAP)** – California State University
- **Compact for Success** – San Diego State University; Sweetwater Union High School District
- **The Design Shop** – Las Positas College
- **Digital Bridge Academy** – Cabrillo College
- **FastForward to Academic Success** – California State University, Office of the Chancellor; California State University, Fresno
- **Headstart on College: Curriculum Alignment & Credit by Examination** – Las Positas College
- **Increasing Access via Mentoring (IAM) Program** – University of Southern California, Center for Higher Education Policy Analysis (CHEPA)
- **Integrated Learning Center (ILC)** – Las Positas College
- **Intersegmental Professional Learning Councils** – California Partnership for Achieving Student Success (Cal-PASS)
- **Math Jam: Jumpstarting Success in Prealgebra** – Pasadena City College
- **MESA** – Statewide MESA Program
- **Modesto City Schools College Counseling Program** – Modesto City Schools
- **Pell Advance Project** – Long Beach City College
- **University of California's Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP)** – UC EAOP

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Many Highlighted Practices:

- Address the needs of underserved and under-prepared student populations, many of whom are Latino/a.
- Address skills deficiencies in novel ways, from accelerated remediation to systemic institutional changes.
- Promote and nurture learning communities as a solution for increasing student success and retention.
- Stress early and timely college information for both students and families.

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FastForward to Academic Success

Submitted by the California State University, Office of the Chancellor; California State University, Fresno

- Exemplary program improving access and retention rates for rural students and Latino students entering CSU, Fresno.
- Uses online and traditional instruction and counseling.
- High school seniors earn three college credits with year-long online course on university prep, including study skills, math and writing.
- In college, students enroll in a fall university experience class and a spring community service class, along with general education classes.
- Drop in remediation rates; nearly all students retained to sophomore year.
- FastForward is an exemplary program improving access and retention rates for rural and Latino students.

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Modesto City Schools College Counseling Program

Submitted by Modesto City Schools

- Students and families in Modesto, many of them low-income and facing language barriers, were not receiving college guidance.
- In 1998, the district hired full time, trained college counselors.
- Provide assistance with college tests, applications and financial aid.
- An annual financial aid workshop where parents are guided step-by-step in filing the FAFSA, in English and Spanish.
- Cal Grant GPA verification is provided electronically for every senior.
- Three-fold increase in number of students receiving Cal-Grants.
- This program provides a model for how a school district can improve college-going and maximize the use of state and federal financial aid.

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Compact for Success

Submitted by San Diego State University; Sweetwater Union High School District

- Unique partnership between San Diego State University and Sweetwater Union High School District.
- Guarantees admission to SDSU and provides need-based financial aid to all Sweetwater students who complete program requirements.
- Provides Sweetwater students in grades 7 through 12 with rigorous curriculum and series of services.
- Once Compact Scholars attend SDSU, they take part in a comprehensive orientation and retention programs.
- Gains in Sweetwater students enrolled in SDSU and reduced remediation.
- By extending an early commitment of college admission and financial aid, the Compact for Success improves preparation and access to college.

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Policy Recommendations:

- Build strong linkages between K-12 schools, community colleges and universities.
- Invest in strong data systems to help analyze student progress over time.
- Make early commitments of college and financial aid to middle school students.
- Provide services throughout high school, especially in the senior year, focusing on math and English readiness as well as college and financial aid applications.
- Align “end of high school” standards with “start of college” standards across the board, including career tech, mathematics, English, and other programs.
- Focus on intensity, rather than remediation, to help college students who need to master basic skills in math, English and other areas.
- Create structured paths from college enrollment to completion in community colleges and universities, integrating strong instruction, student services, and financial aid services in the first year.

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