



# Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

WHAT: Columbia College honored for equitable placements

## **Columbia College again earns statewide honors for equity progress**

Columbia College has received statewide recognition for the second year in a row for meeting two key benchmarks related to equitable opportunity and outcomes for college-bound students.

California's Campaign for College Opportunity named Columbia College a 2023 *Champion for Excelling in Equitable Course Placement in Campuswide English Enrollment & Latinx English Enrollment*. The award recognizes that Columbia College successfully supported 100% of students to enroll directly into transfer level English coursework and supported 100% of Latinx students to enroll directly into transfer level English coursework. These two accomplishments reflect work the college has done to quickly and successfully implement state policy changes aimed at increasing access and success for students in college-level courses.

Columbia was one of 40 California Community Colleges to receive honors from the Campaign for College Opportunity, and received its award at the Campaign for College Opportunity's ceremony in Los Angeles May 31<sup>st</sup>. The special event, *Excellence in Placement: Honoring Community Colleges Excelling in Equitable Course Placement for Students*, included Chancellor Select Sonya Christian, California Community College honorees, and other guests.

"This recognition is especially meaningful, because it goes to the heart of our mission as a community college," said Columbia College President Dr. Lena Tran, "and the work we do is so powerful. Our students can come here, get an affordable, high quality education, and transfer into the best universities in the state. They are at that caliber and we are proud to remove barriers and support their success."

"We know students who start at a community college and transfer into a four-year CSU or UC reap the benefits of lower costs, class schedules are flexible for students who are working, and it helps for a smoother transition into a four-year college. Generally speaking, community college transfer students out-perform many of those who enrolled directly from high school and are more likely to graduate."

Statewide, since passage of AB 705 (Irwin) in 2017, California Community Colleges have made significant strides in eliminating remedial education courses and ensuring students enroll and succeed in college-level courses. Systemwide, community colleges have doubled the number of students who complete transfer-level Math and English courses.

"Columbia is able to offer high support for students, and that's key when embracing a new approach like AB 705," Dr. Tran said. "It has made the pathway to transfer much more efficient for so many of our students, and we are able to be nimble and flexible in providing support. Columbia has been on the leading edge of this innovation, and we're proud of that."