

AHED Dispatch

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Final Edition for 2022

Welcome to the final issue of the AHED Dispatch for the 2022 legislative year. The Committee has enjoyed providing our readers with higher education news and updates on higher education policy. In our final issue, we wanted to provide you with an interview from the Lieutenant Governor and updates from the Federal Government. Enjoy!



Update from CCC
EdSource - Special Report - Dual Enrollment who is in and who is out.



Update from CSU
CSU - CSU stories you may have missed.



Update from UC
LA Times - UC will give a second chance to rejected California high school students.

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Interview With Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis

Ambassador Eleni Kounalakis was sworn in as the 50th Lieutenant Governor of California by Governor Gavin Newsom on January 7, 2019. Lt. Governor Kounalakis became the first woman elected as Lt. Governor in the history of the State. She graciously answered questions regarding the future of higher education in the state.



You are the first woman to hold your office. What unique perspectives and qualities do you bring as Lt. Governor?

My political career began in 2017, when I launched my campaign to become the first woman elected Lieutenant Governor in California’s history. I grew up the daughter of an immigrant, became a mom, a businesswoman, and a US Ambassador. These experiences shape my perspectives and priorities as Lt. Governor. The path of the California dream that I’ve walked was made possible by the promise of education, economic opportunity, and personal liberty – especially bodily autonomy. Now it is my privilege to have the opportunity as Lt. Governor to fight to expand the California dream for more children, students, and people throughout our state.

Lt. Governor, you serve as an ex officio member of the governing boards of all three public higher education systems in California. How do you see your role as an ex officio member?

I am proud to have worked with the Legislature and the Governor to pass legislation permanently adding the Lt. Governor to the California Community College Board of Governors. This established the Lt. Governor as the only person to sit on all three governing boards of our public higher education system in California.

I view my role as an ex officio member of these boards as an opportunity to serve as a bridge, ensuring our systems are working together and aligned with state-wide goals and priorities. As an elected official, it is a powerful platform where I can serve as a strong voice for the people of California, who are the most important beneficiary of our public university system.

“We must do everything we can to ensure that our students can move through our higher ed institutions in a timely manner...”

What books are you currently reading and if you could have dinner with anyone (living or dead) who would it be and why?

I am currently reading “A Thousand Ships,” by Natalie Haynes about the Trojan War. If I could have dinner with anyone, it would be my sons! They are in college now and I miss them tremendously.

What higher education reform have you supported that you are most proud of and why?

Over the last four years we have worked hard to define the Office of the Lt. Governor as an office that leads in higher education. I am very proud of our efforts, working with members of the Legislature and Governor Newsom, to make public higher education institutions more affordable, accessible, and equitable. From the elimination of the use of the SAT & ACT in admissions requirements, to standing up against tuition increases, to supporting legislation to make our institutions work more efficiently for our students we have a lot to be proud of but there’s also much work ahead!

In recent years, you have supported various higher education bills before the Legislature. What do you see as a priority for higher education in the State moving forward?

Every Californian deserves a chance to access our transformative institutions of public higher education, just as members of my family and I have. The higher ed compacts in this year's budget include 1% annual enrollment growth at the CSU and UC for the next four years. This means an additional 14,000 full-time equivalent resident undergraduates at the CSU, and approximately 8,000 more undergraduate students at UC. I commend the Governor and Legislature on these important agreements, they are a great step towards serving more CA students.

In addition to adding capacity throughout our system for California students, we must work to improve graduation rates at the CSU and transfer-rates at our Community Colleges while closing existing equity gaps. Significant progress has been made over the past 7 years, but still only 33% of first-time students graduate from the CSU in 4 years and only 4% of CCC students who wish to transfer do so within 2 years. We must do everything we can to ensure that our students can move through our higher ed institutions in a timely manner, which will ultimately save students, taxpayers, and the state, time and money while also opening spots for new students.

What was the deciding factor in your being highly engaged in higher education policy?

My family story - like so many others in our state - embodies the California dream. My father immigrated to the United States from Greece, alone, with no money when he was just 14 years old. He worked in the fields of the Central Valley as a farmworker, before having the opportunity to attend Sacramento State University. His ability to access an affordable public college education allowed him to start a successful business and changed the trajectory of his life, and mine.

Knowing the impact that access to public higher education had on my family, and millions of other California families, means I am determined to ensure that every Californian has the same opportunity to achieve the California dream through the doors of our world-class public universities and colleges.

What is your favorite pastime/hobby?

My husband Markos and I love long walks, especially if we are in a new city or country. A few weeks ago, we were in Mexico City for the signing of a toll-sharing agreement between California and Mexico. Soon after we arrived, we put on our walking shoes and headed out to explore!



FEDERAL UPDATES

Title IX -

In June of 2022, the Biden Administration released new Title IX regulations; which would influence how postsecondary education institutions implement the 37 word law that protects students from sexual discrimination. The public comment period for the new regulations ended with over 200,000 public comments. The administration will now review the public comments and either make changes to the regulations or provide responses to the comments. The administration expects the regulations to be implemented by spring of 2023.

DACA Ruling -

On October 5, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the state of Texas, et al. v. United States (2021) ruling that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program is unlawful. As of November 3, the Department of Homeland Security's final rule to preserve and fortify the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals went into effect. Under the final ruling, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Office (USCIS) will continue to accept new applications, but will not process initial DACA requests. The USCIS will continue to accept and process applications for deferred action, work authorization, and advance parole for current DACA recipients.

Student Loan Forgiveness and Repayment -

In August, President Biden announced student loan relief for borrowers who needed it most. The President promised up to \$10,000 in loan debt forgiveness for low and middle income borrowers. Multiple lawsuits have been posed by Republican States preventing the U.S. Education Department from accepting more applications and discharging any debt. The Federal Government has appealed to the Supreme Court to overturn a lower court's injunction which prevented the debt forgiveness plan from continuing. As the Biden Administration awaits the Supreme Court's decision on a case to overturn the injunction, the Administration has extended the pause on student loan payment until June 30, 2023.

STATE UPDATES

Budget Updates -

The Legislative Analyst's office has published their annual fiscal outlook for the state. Projections indicate a \$24 billion dollar budget problem and ongoing budget deficits.

The California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California have all published their budget asks for the 2023-2024 budget cycle.

PPIC Report Updates -

The Public Policy Institute of California has published multiple reports this fall; including,

- The Effects of COVID - 19 on Transfer-Intending Students in California's Community Colleges.
- COVID-19 Emergency Funding and California's Higher Education Systems.
- English as a Second Language at California's Community Colleges.

AHED Committee Updates -

The Assembly Higher Education Committee is offering office hours to help onboard current and new higher education staff in Member's offices or to offer assistance with bill packages pertaining to higher education. To schedule a thirty minute session with the Assembly Higher Education Staff, please email AHED.Committee@assembly.ca.gov

Higher Education Cross Word Puzzle

We thought since the legislative year is over, we would provide you a bit of fun albeit educational.

Below you will find a crossword puzzle with questions pertaining to higher education.

Be one of the first three staffers to submit a correctly completed crossword to AHED.Committee@assembly.ca.gov and you will win a Starbucks Gift Card.

Across

- 2. Which California State University campus has one of the highest number of Fulbright Scholars in 2021. (one word: Cal Poly _____)
- 4. This famous actor attend Chabot College and has starred in films as Walt Disney and Mister Rogers. (two words, no spaces)
- 5. The last name of the current California State University Interim Chancellor. (one word)
- 7. This California State University received \$83 million to establish an energy innovation center in the 2022-2023 Budget. (California State University, _____, one word)
- 10. In 2022, 22.843 transfer students applied to attend this University of California campus. (UC _____ one

Down

- 1. The first fully online Community College , _____ College (one word)
- 2. The last name of the current President of the California Community College Board of Governors. (one word)
- 3. The Singer whose imagination library received funding in the 2022-2023 budget to provide books to children in California under the age of five. (Two words no spaces)
- 6. California State University International Programs recently partnered with a University from this Country. The mascot for UC Santa Barbara. (South _____ one word)
- 8. The city where the University of California Office of the President is located. (one word).
- 9. In fall 2021, 39% of undergraduates at the University of California were _____ generation of students. (one word)

