

AHED Dispatch

May 22, 2024
Volume 4
Issue 3

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Graduation is in the air!

Let's take a moment to celebrate the 2024 graduates of California's higher education systems, while taking time to reflect on the Legislature's contribution to not only the present graduates, but also to the future leaders and change makers that contribute daily to the state of California!

California Community Colleges

- With 2 million students at 116 colleges, the California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the country.
- **70%** of California Community Colleges students are people of diverse ethnic backgrounds.
- **51%** of California State University graduates started at a California Community College.
- **29%** of University of California graduates started at a California Community College.
- For every \$1 students spend on their community college education, they gain \$5 in higher earnings in the future.
- Graduates with an associate degree from a California Community College will see an increase in earnings of **\$11,100** compared to those with only a high school diploma.
- Occupations that typically require workers to have an associate degree for entry have an average annual wage of almost \$53,000, compared to an average annual wage of \$36,100 for workers in high school-level occupations, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



Mount San Antonio College
Voted #1 Community College in California for 2024



Orange Coast College

“Your education is a dress rehearsal for a life that is yours to lead.”
— Nora Ephron

California State University

- Educates one of the most ethnically, economically and academically diverse student bodies in the country.
- Is consistently recognized for providing opportunities for social mobility.
- Provides degree opportunities at one of the most affordable rates nationwide.
- Enrolls more than 450,000 students, and more than 63,000 faculty and staff.
- Serves each of California's regions, from Humboldt to San Diego.
- Offers more than 4,000 degree programs that align with workforce demands.
- Has a robust and supportive community of more than 4 million alumni.



California State University, Northridge



Sonoma State University

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”
— Eleanor Roosevelt

University of California

- The University of California opened its doors in 1869 with just 10 faculty members and 40 students. Today, the UC system has more than 280,000 students and 227,000 faculty and staff, with 2 million alumni living and working around the world.
- 83% of undergraduates are from California.
- 4.17 average years to degree for freshman.
- 86% freshman graduation rates.
- Transfer students receive some of the most generous financial aid in the country. More than three quarters of transfer students get grants and scholarships to assist with tuition, and well over half have their tuition and fees fully covered.
- Five of UC's nine undergraduate campuses are currently designated Hispanic-serving institutions (HSI): UC Irvine, UC Merced, UC Riverside, UC Santa Barbara and UC Santa Cruz. Within a few years, university leadership aims to attain HSI status at every UC campus.



University of California Riverside



University of California Davis

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2024 GRADUATES!!