

Date of Hearing: June 25, 2019

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Jose Medina, Chair

SB 426 (Bradford) – As Amended May 17, 2019

SENATE VOTE: 34-0

SUBJECT: California State University, Dominguez Hills: Dymally Fellows Project

SUMMARY: Requires the California State University (CSU) to establish the Dymally Fellows Project (Project) to provide academic and leadership skills to students who reside in specified areas of the state. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires the CSU to establish the Project, to be operated out of the Mervyn M. Dymally African American Political and Economic Institute at CSU, Dominguez Hills.
- 2) States that the Project is to provide academic and leadership skills to high school pupils and to community college students.
- 3) Provides that the Project is to serve pupils and students who reside in the region of South Los Angeles, the Cities of Bell, Carson, Compton, Gardena, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lynwood, and South Gate, and the neighborhoods of North Long Beach, Willowbrook, and Watts.
- 4) Requires the Project to:
 - a) Expand the academic and leadership skills of its participants to encourage their enrollment at the CSU.
 - b) Provide leadership curriculum to expand their worldview through statewide, national, and international opportunities to study and travel.
- 5) Provides that the implementation of this bill is contingent upon an appropriation.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the CSU and its various campuses under the administration of the Trustees of the CSU. (Education Code Section 89000 et seq.)
- 2) Authorized the CSU Trustees to establish an African American Political and Economic Institute at CSU, Dominguez Hills. This statutory provision was repealed on January 1, 2010.

FISCAL EFFECT: According to the Senate Committee on Appropriations, while the Project would be contingent upon an appropriation, this bill could result in General Fund cost pressure of \$300,000 to fund it.

COMMENTS: *Need for the bill.* According to the author, “The Kerner Commission (formally known as the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders) was established in 1967 by President Lyndon B. Johnson in response to the summer uprisings of 1967. The commission was tasked with unearthing the root causes of the widespread civil unrest that shook the nation during

that time. The commission concluded that among intertwining factors, the fundamental causes were evident. Pervasive discrimination and segregation in employment, education and housing, have excluded communities of color from the benefits of economic progress.”

“The Kerner Commission’s report was published a half-century ago, yet South Los Angeles has experienced little economic progress as noted by a recent UCLA report. Particularly with education, in comparison to 1960 the gap in school performance between South Los Angeles and the most affluent neighborhoods of Los Angeles exists at the same level of disparity today. Given the educational disparity that currently persists (even after the release of the report) within South Los Angeles, there is a need for a college matriculation program for high school and community college students that also places an emphasis on public policy and social entrepreneurship training.”

Background. The Campaign for College Opportunity released a report in February 2019, titled *State of Higher Education for Black Californians*. This report noted several facts that lend themselves to the purpose of this bill, notably:

- 1) California high schools graduate Black students at lower rates than all other racial/ethnic groups and have failed to address the significantly lower percentages of Black students who are offered and complete the college preparatory curriculum - a 17-percentage point gap in A-G completion between Black and White students exists.
- 2) Of the 25,000 Black high school graduates in 2017, only 9,000 completed the coursework necessary to be eligible for California’s public four-year universities.
- 3) California Community Colleges transfer only three percent of Black students within two years, and only 35 percent within six years.
- 4) Sixty-three percent of Black community college students do not earn a degree, certificate, or transfer within six years.
- 5) Fifty-seven percent of Black freshman at CSU do not complete a degree within six years and only nine percent do so in four years.
- 6) Ninety-three percent of Black for-profit college students do not complete a degree within six years.
- 7) Almost half of all Black students who attended college left without a degree.

The Mervyn M. Dymally African American Political & Economic Institute. The mission of the Mervyn M. Dymally African American Political & Economic Institute is to build community and institutional memory, through a digital archive, of the history and contributions of African American elected officials, business leaders, and community leaders who have influenced the progress of the State of California and the nation; to influence public policy debates through on-going academic and community research dealing with African American political and economic development concerns and impacts in California and elsewhere around the nation; to help develop the next generation of elected officials, civic, and policy leaders; and to engage the CSU Dominguez Hills community through cultural experiences that promote the Dymally influence in the African Diaspora.

The Dymally Fellows Project. This Project currently exists within the Mervyn M. Dymally African American Political & Economic Institute. The Project allows for males of color to travel internationally to expand their worldview and higher education ambitions. The Institute also supports the African American Leadership Training Program for high school students. The Institute will stage and support cultural events for CSU Dominguez Hills students and the community at large that highlight the Dymally influence on the African Diaspora.

Prior legislation. SB 807 (Price), Chapter 170, Statutes of 2013, required CSU, Dominguez Hills, to rename the African American Political and Economic Institute as the Mervyn M. Dymally African American Political and Economic Institute.

AB 60 (Dymally), Chapter 201, Statutes of 2003, authorized the CSU Trustees to establish an African American Political and Economic Institute at CSU, Dominguez Hills

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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