

AHED DISPATCH

January 15, 2021

Federal News

Supreme Court to decide whether NCAA can refuse pay for football and basketball stars.

Federal Judge restores DACA, orders DHS to accept first-time applications from immigrants.

What Higher Ed needs to know about Miguel Cardona, President - Elect Biden's pick for Education Secretary.

Congress will give colleges \$20 billion in relief and some long awaited policy reforms.

Ask A Consultant

This space will be dedicated to answering any questions you may have for the Consultants of the Higher Education Committee.

Feel free to submit your questions to AHED.Committee@assembly.ca.gov.

These questions can be on any subject, not just those germane to higher education.

In Case You Missed It

The Assembly Higher Education Committee had an informational hearing on the impact of COVID - 19 on Postsecondary Education.

News from Public Postsecondary Education

California Community College (CCC)

Press Release: For the first time in history, the California Community Colleges Board of Governor's will have two women serving as President and Vice-President.

Ed Source: Fewer students attending California Community Colleges, early fall numbers show.

California State University (CSU)

The newest Student Trustee hails from CSU San Bernardino and is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree in computer science and business.

The CSU will have a new Chancellor in January. Introducing Chancellor Joseph I. Castro, previously the president of Fresno State University.

University of California (UC)

UC Irvine led a study highlighting undocumented students experiences at state public universities.

In August 2020, Dr. Michael Drake became the 21st President of the UC. Meet the new UC President who previously served as president of The Ohio State University.



AHED Prediction for Key Issues in 2021

Everyone was impacted in some way by the effects of COVID-19 in 2020; arguably one of the groups of people to get hit the hardest can be deemed college and university students. As the Legislature continues to grapple with the challenges in addressing the unique needs of students, we predict that some of the top priorities for 2021 will entail the following: Financial Aid Reform – looking at providing more than just tuition assistance and the ability to provide funds to address the total cost of attendance of students, Ability to Provide Emergency Aid to Students, Bridging the Digital Divide, Addressing Mental Health Needs, Simplifying Transfer Pathways for Students, and Addressing Overall Equity and Equality Issues.



Backgrounder on Student Basic Needs

In March 2019, the [California Community Colleges \(CCC\) #RealCollege survey](#) reported that more than 50% of CCC students experience food insecurity and 20% faced homelessness while enrolled at the community college. Acknowledging data from the 2019 student survey, the CCC has continued to invest in innovative and effective practices to provide basic needs assistance to students. The CCC have established food pantries and community partnerships in an ongoing effort to develop basic needs awareness and increase access to community resources, such as CalFresh. To learn more about the ongoing efforts at the Community Colleges, please visit [California Community College Health and Wellness's Basic Needs Initiative](#).

In 2018, [a comprehensive report on student's basic needs](#) found 41.6% of California State University (CSU) students reported experiencing food insecurity and 10.9% experienced homelessness one or more times in the previous 12 months. In response to the survey, the CSU established the [Basic Needs Initiative](#), and steps have been taken to address these basic needs concerns including: establishing food pantries on all 23 campuses, allowing CalFresh recipients to purchase hot food on campus, and offering CalFresh application assistance.

In 2015, in an effort to gauge the food insecurities among students, the University of California (UC) administered an online study which found that 42% of UC students experienced food insecurity. Based on these results, the UC launched the [Global Food Initiative](#) and created an action plan to meet the basic needs of students at individual campuses. The action plan included expanding food pantry storage access, increasing collaboration with state and county offices to register students for CalFresh, and enhancing financial aid communications about housing and food cost.

Private non-profit universities have also made investments to address students' basic needs on campus, such as food pantries, housing resources, and emergency relief grants. [USC](#) has provided students with a Trojan Food Pantry, the ability to donate meals to other students through Swipe Out Hunger, and they have a student basic needs emergency relief grant.

Addressing the overall cost of college including food insecurity and homelessness has become a priority for the Legislature. In the last two legislative cycles, the Legislature has passed a myriad of bills addressing student basic needs at public universities including legislation to assist campuses in becoming "hunger-free campuses", providing pathways for the CCC to participate in the CalFresh Restaurant Meal Program, and millions of general fund dollars to address student basic needs at all three public segments. For additional bills or information on efforts to address student basic needs, please do not hesitate to contact the Higher Education Committee.

Budget Update

On January 8th, the Governor released his initial budget proposal for the 2021-2022 budget year. The budget reflected a \$951 million increase in higher education funding compared to the 2020 Budget Act. In addition to increasing the base funding for all three public higher education segments, the budget includes investments in mental health resources, technology resources, food and housing for students, and emergency financial aid resources. The Governor has stipulated the investments in higher education are not only to mitigate the impacts of COVID - 19, but to reduce equity gaps, adopt policies to further educational opportunities using online learning programs, and to better align educational objectives with workforce needs. For details on the budget, please see the [Department of Finance website](#).

Thank you for reading! Should you wish to learn more please visit the [AHED Website](#).