



CENTRAL VALLEY HIGHER EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

Message from the President

December 2015

The Central Valley Higher Education Consortium is truly blossoming this year. As I reflect on our collective mission to promote higher education attainment for residents of the Central Valley, it is clear that our efforts are having a significant impact.

I recently was a member at a panel at the California Latino Leadership Education Summit with many of my CVHEC colleagues, and was proud to share how our programs are producing real results.

Of course, none of this would be possible without our team down in Fresno, spearheaded by Interim Director Cheri Cruz. The CVHEC team are bringing our ideas to life and doing the tough job of keeping our organization on a path to success.

Here is a quick update on the good work CVHEC is doing.

Complete College America

Earlier this year, we submitted an application for Complete College America in hopes that our organization would be selected to participate in the 2015-17 State of California Cohort. As a member of CCA, we have the opportunity to participate in progress on corequisite remediation and work with college and university leaders inside and outside of the Consortium to mobilize change statewide. I'm happy to report that our application was approved.

Since the implementation of the CVHEC-CCA "Consortium Agreement" in Summer 2015, we committed to setting completion goals, developing actions plans with key policy leaders, and collecting and reporting on measures of progress. Many of our CVHEC college and university leaders participated in two CCA National Institute meetings – one in Minneapolis and one in Denver.

College Career Boot Camp

Funded by the Fresno Regional Foundation, the College Career Boot Camp has been scheduled for December 19-22 at Fresno State. Fifty high school juniors will be selected based on evidence of high academic potential, with special consideration for first generation college students and students considered at higher risk. The application deadline is December 4th.

Policy/Advocacy

The organizations Ready Nation will feature CVHEC in an upcoming report as an example of best practices for coordination and regional leadership. We are exploring opportunities to work closer with these organizations and others, including: Campaign for College Opportunity, Excelencia in Education, and Policy Link. It is our hope that institutional research personnel from CVHEC campuses can partner with representatives from these organizations and develop good working relationships and create action around best practices that reduce time to degree, create better coordination of services, and ultimately promote high quality degree attainment in our region. Soon enough, we will as leaders set our college attainment goal in line with national Goal 2025 efforts.

Our work with the NEO Philanthropy is underway. Cheri Cruz has hired Benjamin Duran, former CVHEC board member and former President of Merced College as our Advocate Leader and Board Liaison, and Kizzy Lopez, doctoral student and Fresno State student support professional, to serve as Lead Consultant on Research Development. Cheri has also hired a consultant to work more in depth on advocacy and policy issues, Virginia Madrid-Salazar, Juris Doctorate Candidate with 17 years of public information marketing experience, to assist in this work and the CVHEC Lumina Foundation Goal 2025 Campaign.

It's been an absolute pleasure to serve as your Chair. We have a lot to be proud of, and a lot to look forward to. Please take a moment to read our Fall newsletter for even more information on recent and upcoming CVHEC activities.

Sincerely,

Joseph F. Sheley
Board President, Central Valley Higher Education Consortium

President, California State University, Stanislaus



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