

Subject: Guidance Issued on Affirmative Action Implications; CCCCC's Counselor Needs Assessment

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From: Faculty Association of California Community Colleges

To: Paul (Pablo) Martin

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Federal Government Issues Guidance on Affirmative Action Implications

The federal government has [released long-awaited guidance](#) in response to the Supreme Court's decision [to reverse affirmative action](#). This guidance, jointly issued by the Departments of Education and Justice, addresses various issues raised since the court's June 29 ruling.

Colleges are urged to review and update their admissions policies to align with the Supreme Court's stance that considering race as a sole factor in admissions is no longer permissible. However, the guidance highlights that considering an applicant's race within the context of their life experiences remains valid.

Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta emphasized that while the decision alters the admissions landscape, it should not discourage institutions from promoting inclusivity. Many colleges are expected to use application essays as a platform for applicants to discuss how their racial backgrounds have influenced their lives.

Education Secretary Miguel Cardona underscored the federal government's dedication to supporting diversity efforts in education, citing the negative consequences of past affirmative action bans on students of color.

The guidance also emphasizes targeted recruitment and retention efforts to enhance student diversity. While the resources do not address all concerns, its focus on adherence to the Supreme Court's decision is consistent. It is expected to shape future admissions and diversity initiatives in colleges, aligned with the Biden administration's commitment to inclusivity and diversity in education.

Participate in CCCCCO's Counselor Needs Assessment

The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office [has tailored a 10-minute needs assessment for the state's community college counselors](#). This assessment aims to capture diverse perspectives and experiences, ensuring that upcoming professional development initiatives align with counselors' statewide needs. The insights gathered will shape comprehensive training programs that cater specifically to counselors, enhancing their pivotal role in educational institutions.

Counselors' anonymity is fully protected during this assessment, with no personally identifiable data used in analysis. Your feedback solely contributes to bolstering counselor support throughout the state. If you or a colleague of yours would like to participate, please complete [this survey](#) by **September 1, 2023** and help shape a brighter future for counselor development.

Biden Administration Launches Student Debt Relief Initiative For Long-Term Borrowers

The Biden administration has launched a new initiative to [provide relief for long-term student loan borrowers](#) who have been repaying their loans for over two decades. This effort is designed to address challenges within federal income-driven repayment programs, with [a significant \\$39 billion](#) set aside for disbursement. Despite its potential benefits, the program faces legal hurdles and opposition from Republicans.

Initially announced in April 2022, this initiative involves retroactively adjusting borrower accounts to recognize each month that might have qualified under an income-driven repayment plan, irrespective of whether the payment was actually made. As a result, [approximately 804,000 borrowers](#) have become eligible for loan forgiveness, with notifications sent out earlier this summer.

One of the key concerns highlighted by regulators is the improper placement of borrowers into lengthy forbearances, which prevents them from qualifying for loan forgiveness. Additionally, the Education Department has experienced challenges with accurately tracking monthly payments.

Conservative groups like the [Cato Institute and the Mackinac Center for Public Policy](#) have sought a court order to stop the loan forgiveness efforts, arguing that retroactively awarding credit represents an abuse of authority. Due to potential legal challenges, there is a level of uncertainty about the program's full implementation.

California Community Colleges Women's Equity Empowerment Program



**Open to California Community College Employees:
Classified, Faculty and Administrators.**

The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office has partnered with the [Dr. Yasmin Davidds](#) Institute to offer classified employees, faculty, and administrators with a virtual professional development opportunity to learn the skills, knowledge, and ability to lead in the California Community Colleges system.

Participants will engage in activities designed around five core pillars (self-advocacy, self-leadership, well-being, empowerment, and influence) that support employee and student success. Additionally, virtual discussion groups will connect you with a group of colleagues outside of your campus as you build your network through authentic, human-centered interactions.

Each cohort consists of six classes (two hours per class) with three cohort options:

1. COHORT 1: Tuesdays, Sept 27 - Nov 29 from 8 AM to 10 AM pst
2. COHORT 2: Wednesdays, Sept 28 - Nov 30 from 12 PM to 2 PM pst
3. COHORT 3: Thursdays, Sept 29 - Dec 1 from 8 AM to 10 AM pst

[Click here to access the online application](#) to reserve your seat for this program.

Fullerton College Announces New Ethnic Studies For Educators Certificate Program



The Ethnic Studies department at [Fullerton College](#) is currently recruiting for a new **Ethnic Studies for Educators Certificate Program**, which will be serving educators across the state. Beginning this fall 2023, the Ethnic Studies Department will be offering Ethnic Studies certificates for pre-service and in-service high school teachers who are, or will be, teaching Ethnic Studies classes as a result of AB 101 – which made Ethnic Studies a California high school graduation requirement.

Classes are set to start September 18 and will be taught fully online. If you would like more information about the program, please contact the program coordinator, Dr. Anita Juarez, at ajuarez@fullcoll.edu, [or access the link here](#).

Seeking FACCC PAC Student Coordinators

Spread the news! We're hiring talented and passionate current or recent community college students to join our team as FACCC PAC Student Coordinators for 2024. Student Coordinators will learn about the policy process, gain skills from working on campaigns, make professional connections, and more!

Responsibilities include:

- Local and statewide voter registration and campaign work for elections
- Legislative and political research and writing
- Membership mobilization and engagement

Student Coordinators will be compensated \$20 an hour, and expected to work remotely for 10 hours a week. Scheduling is flexible.

Learn more and [apply for the position here](#). We are looking forward to hearing from you!

Register For Our Upcoming Events

Santa Monica College Faculty Association Benefits and Retirement Conference

Santa Monica College
Friday, October 20 | 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

[Santa Monica College Faculty Association](#) and the [Faculty Association of California Community Colleges Education Institute](#) are pleased to invite you to join us for the [Benefits and Retirement Conference](#).

Workshops on retirement planning, investment strategies, and basic financial planning will be available.

[Register today.](#)

Advocacy & Policy Conference

February 25 - 26, 2024
Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel

All faculty members, union and academic senate leaders, student leaders and those who work in categorically funded programs are encouraged to attend. This is your opportunity to network with colleagues across the state, participate in professional development sessions, and hear from top decision-makers on policy and budget.

[Register today.](#)

Resources

Below you'll find a list of resources from federal, state, and local agencies we hope you'll find helpful.

- [Online Instruction and Services Resources](#) - The California Virtual Campus-Online Education Initiative has developed an Emergency Preparedness Resources

Online Education Initiative has developed an Emergency Preparedness Resources web site for assistance converting in-person classes to online.

- [Employment Development Department \(EDD\) Services](#) - EDD provides a variety of support services to individuals affected by COVID-19 in California. This includes disability insurance, unemployment insurance, and paid family leave.
- [Department of Labor](#) - The Department of Labor [posted a questions and answers page](#) for the most pressing questions around the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.
- [CalSTRS](#) - Concerned about your pension? Check out the CalSTRS website for the latest information on your retirement.

Is this information useful?

We want to hear from you, [please give us your feedback!](#)

This email was sent to pmartin@sdccd.edu by info@faccc.org

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