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Assembly Chamber, Sacramento
Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 59, the following Assembly Journal for the 2023–24 Regular Session was printed while the Assembly was in Final Recess.

REPORTS

The following letter of transmittal was presented by the Chief Clerk and ordered printed in the Journal:

California State Auditor2023-123
September 24, 2024

*The Honorable Speaker of the Assembly
The Honorable Members of the Assembly
of the Legislature of California
State Capitol, Room 319
Sacramento, California*

Members of the Assembly: As directed by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, my office conducted an audit of the State's three systems of public higher education: the California Community Colleges (CCC), the California State University (CSU), and University of California (UC). Our assessment focused on these systems' efforts to improve the rate of community college transfers to CSU and UC. In general, we determined that streamlining the community college transfer process could increase students' opportunities to earn bachelor's degrees.

Although most transfer students who applied to CSU and UC gained admission to at least one campus in those systems, CCC students still struggle to transfer. Only about 1 in 5 students who began community college from 2017 to 2019 and intended to transfer did so within four years, and transfer rates were even lower for students from certain regions and demographic groups. The vast majority of students who did not transfer never reached the point of applying to CSU or UC, mainly because they had not earned enough units. The three systems could help increase transfer rates by improving the outreach and support they provide to transfer-intending students. For example, CCC could ensure

that students receive counseling and develop education plans so that they have a clear roadmap for transferring. The three systems could also share data about transfer students to help campuses make more targeted outreach efforts. Additionally, for students who earn enough units to transfer, CSU and UC could facilitate access to their preferred degree programs by ensuring that competitive campuses and majors adequately prioritize transfer applicants for admission.

Another barrier to transfer is the variation in transfer requirements across and within the three systems, which makes the process difficult for students to navigate. The Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) offers a streamlined transfer pathway to CSU. However, community colleges may not offer every ADT, CSU campuses may not accept every ADT, and UC has established its own transfer options that lack some of the ADT's key benefits. Expanding the use of the ADT—or the use of a UC option that emulates its benefits—would further streamline the transfer process.

Respectfully submitted,

GRANT PARKS
California State Auditor

Above report referred to the Committee on Higher Education.

ROBERT RIVAS, Speaker

DANIEL ALVAREZ, Assistant Minute Clerk

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