



# INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP & POLICY

MONTHLY UPDATE

**August 2009**

## **New This Month**

### **Creating a Student-Centered Transfer Process in California: Lessons from Other States**

IHELP's latest study tackles the difficult challenge of making transfer more comprehensible and less frustrating for California's community college students. The study examines transfer policies of eight states, identifies some key dimensions of emerging policies, and offers recommendations for more student-centered transfer policies that would increase transfer success and lead to more college educated Californians. View the full report at [www.csus.edu/ihe](http://www.csus.edu/ihe).

### **Retaining Latino College Students: Conclusions from the Literature**

This research brief by Dr. Ted Lascher, Sacramento State Associate Dean, College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies, is a summary of a critical review of the literature about retaining Latino and non-Latino college students. This brief highlights those findings that are best supported by earlier studies, emphasizes where further research is needed and offers recommendations. View the [research brief](#) and [full report](#) here.

### **Conference Call on STEM Report**

On August 5, the Campaign for College Opportunity hosted a conference call to discuss IHELP's recent report, *Technical Difficulties: Meeting California's Workforce Needs in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Fields*. The call featured CCO Executive Director Michelle Siqueiros, Bay Area Council Vice President for Education and Healthcare Linda Galliher and IHELP Executive Director Nancy Shulock. If you missed the call or would like to view the report, select the links below:

[Conference Call](#) (Requires Windows Media Player or Quicktime to listen)

[Executive Summary](#)

[Full Report](#)

## What's Happening at IHELP

**IPEDS Study**– New report coming soon...IHELP will release a report next month analyzing the value and effectiveness of the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), particularly in regard to understanding student outcomes in community colleges.

**New Grant Award** - IHELP has received a grant from The James Irvine Foundation to identify policies and practices that could increase student success in certain career pathways through the California community colleges. Researchers will document course-taking behaviors that have proven successful in four high-wage, high-need fields and suggest what steps might be taken to help more students earn certificates and degrees in those fields.

**CSU Graduation Project** – The California State University Chancellor's Office is nearing completion of a one-year planning grant as part of the Lumina Foundation's *Making Opportunity Affordable* project, which is focused on improving productivity in higher education. IHELP, under contract with the CSU, is finishing its study of the 23-campus system's efforts to improve graduation and make recommendations for future steps. This is just one part of the CSU planning year activity, which they hope will lead to a follow-up grant to improve productivity in these times of very limited budgets.

## Spotlight on...

High remediation rates of incoming college students is a widespread national problem. Most states are attempting to address this by improving the alignment between what students learn in high school and what they are expected to know in entry-level college courses. Texas is at the forefront of the effort, having recently enacted comprehensive legislation calling for K-12 and postsecondary educators to work together to develop college readiness standards and to use those standards to influence high school and college curricula and teacher training. Click here for an [excerpt of the legislation](#) and to read more about the [Texas College Readiness project](#).



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