

**SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DISTRICT**

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2020

Focused Federal Advocacy Efforts

**DISTRICT OFFICE OF
PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND
GOVERNMENT
RELATIONS**

ABOUT SOCCCD

South Orange County Community College District



IRVINE VALLEY
COLLEGE



South Orange County Community College District encompasses 382 square miles in Orange County serving over 909,000 residents in 26 communities. We know that higher education is directly linked to quality of life and economic vitality. We have helped generations of families achieve their educational and career goals since 1967.

Distinguished faculty from Saddleback College and Irvine Valley College provide students with rigorous academic classes to prepare them for transfer to four-year colleges and universities, basic skills attainment, or career technical training. Our newest campus, the Advanced Technology & Education Park (ATEP), opened in 2007 and offers courses from our two colleges with a focus on workforce development and career technical skills. Emeritus Institutes and community education programs at our colleges offer lifelong learning opportunities for community members of all ages.

**TOTAL STUDENT
HEADCOUNT**
=42,642



**TOTAL FACULTY
& STAFF**
=3,014



**DEGREES &
CERTIFICATES
OFFERED**
=441

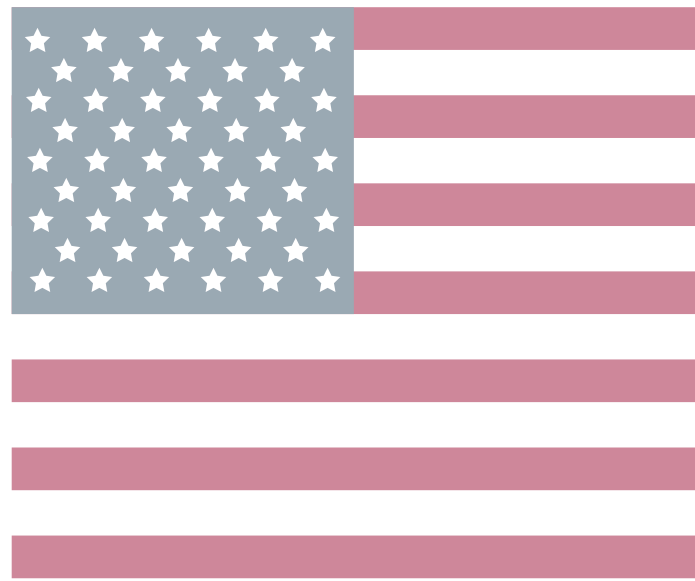


**ECONOMIC IMPACT
TO LOCAL
COMMUNITY**
= \$1.09 BILLION



* Numbers based on 2017/2018 District Data and Economic Impact Report produced by Emsi.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION



U.S. House of Representatives

Congresswoman Katie Porter (*District 45*)

Washington, D.C. Office - 1117 Longworth HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515 | Phone (202) 225-5611

District Office - 2151 Michelson Drive, Suite 195, Irvine, CA 92612 | Phone (949) 668-6600

Congressman Harley Rouda (*District 48*)

Washington, D.C. Office - 2300 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515 | Phone (202) 225-2415

District Office - 4000 Westerly Place, #270, Newport Beach, CA 92660 | Phone (714) 960-6483

Congressman Mike Levin (*District 49*)

Washington, D.C. Office - 1626 Longworth HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515 | Phone (202) 225-3906

District Office - 33282 Golden Lantern, Suite 102, Dana Point, CA 92629 | Phone (949) 281-2449

U.S. Senate

Senator Dianne Feinstein

Washington, D.C. Office - 331 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510 | Phone (202) 224-3841

Los Angeles Office - 11111 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 915, Los Angeles, CA 90025 | Phone (310) 914-7300

Senator Kamala Harris

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FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE

Priorities & Areas of Focus



Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA)

Faculty and campus leaders support continuing protections for DACA participants, combined with legislation establishing a pathway to citizenship. Of the 223,000 DACA participants in California (out of 800,000 nationally), approximately 72,000 are enrolled in one of the California Community College (CCC) institutions. In addition to its social and humanitarian imperatives, DACA has vast economic benefits for our country. A study by the CATO Institute notes that the elimination of DACA would cost the federal government \$60 billion in tax revenues, with the overall economy likely to shrink by \$215 billion.

Legislative Goals: Urge Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform that at a minimum would accomplish the following:

- Codify DACA protections into law.
- Provide a permanent path to citizenship for DACA students.
- Provide eligibility for Title IV grant aid, including Pell Grants and Work-Study.



Workforce for 21st Century

Targeted investments in workforce education are key to increasing the nation's economic competitiveness. CCC institutions are well-positioned to work with the federal government to prepare a skilled workforce that meets the needs of a changing job market. Through a continued partnership with the federal government, California Community Colleges will help provide the career education necessary to build economic growth in the 21st Century.

Legislative Goals: Recommend increased funding for the following programs, with a focus on supporting initiatives that are beneficial to Orange County:

- Workforce for the 21st Century Perkins Act Grants which helps both high school and community colleges offer career technical education courses and incentivizes the two systems to build strong partnerships.
- Workforce, Innovation, and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs that provide vital funding for job training to dislocated workers, low-income adults, and at-risk youth.



Higher Education Act Re-authorization

The success of the California Community Colleges is dependent on continuing SOCCCD's strong partnership with the federal government. In approaching the Higher Education Act re-authorization, we must work with our federal representatives to ensure certain priorities exist through the re-authorization process.

Legislative Goals: Encourage Congress to consider the following priorities and principles:

- Keep College Affordable
- Maintain Protections and Simplify Processes
- Simplify Financial Aid
- Ensure Effective Oversight
- Expand Access to Student-Level Data



Veterans Affairs

It is important that California Community Colleges continue to support student Veterans as they pursue higher education and career goals. Veterans interact with multiple federal programs as they access benefits and supports. We must engage with our federal representatives and federal departments to ensure that (a) student Veterans have access to the full range of support services to which they are entitled, and (b) student Veterans can be successful on our college campuses--Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College.

Legislative Goals: *Ensure Congress and multiple federal departments (such as Veterans Affairs, Defense, and Education) pass and effectively implement legislation to:*

- *Provide effective, timely, financial and/or service support to student Veterans to address their real world needs.*
- *Ensure federal laws do not make student Veterans a target for predatory behavior from education institutions.*
- *Ensure appropriate oversight and accountability of programs for student Veterans.*



Medi-Cal Reimbursement

Community college health centers provide students with important healthcare and mental health services that improve student success. An outdated state policy, through the Department of Healthcare Services, currently prevents community college health centers from accessing the same MediCal reimbursements as local school districts. Changing this policy will improve student health and allow health centers to re-invest funds in expanding access to a variety of services. Once the policy is changed at the state level, that change will need to be approved at the federal level by the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS).

Administrative Goals: *Fix the outdated policy at the state level that prevents community college health centers from receiving funding. Concurrently, at the federal level:*

- *Ensure no federal barriers exist that would prevent speedy approval of the change by the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services.*
- *As needed, work with members of Congress and the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) to provide assurances or guidance to the State of California that they can make the needed modifications to state policy.*
- *Continue the push at the state level to ensure the state level plan changes are made (a straightforward technical change for the state to make).*



Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships can be an impactful way for students to receive high quality workforce experience while pursuing their educational goals. Community colleges facilitate quality apprenticeship experiences, by connecting students with private sector opportunities. It is important for the role of community colleges to be recognized and supported as the federal government invests in apprenticeships.

Legislative and Administrative Goals: *Encourage Congress, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Education to continue to invest in expanding paid work experience and apprenticeship opportunities for community college students. This includes committing policy and financial resources to address barriers that often prevent community colleges from creating paid work experience and apprenticeship programs, such as the lack of resources for early program development.*



Federal Grant Opportunities

Federal grants provide important resources to community colleges. Federal grants help colleges develop new support programs for vulnerable students, invest in program development for in-demand career fields, and enrich research and professional opportunities for faculty and students.

Legislative Goals: *Encourage legislators and administrators at multiple federal departments to invest funds in a variety of grant programs that support community colleges and community college students. This includes:*

- *Support a re-authorization of the Higher Education Act that includes grant programs that impact community colleges, such as, but not limited to, Title III and Title V grant programs for high-need populations.*
- *Support annual congressional appropriations to maintain and/or expand investments in grant programs that benefit community colleges.*
- *Promote rules and regulations that focus grant investments on community colleges.*

ADVOCACY MATTERS

Your Voice In Washington, D.C.

The South Orange County Community College District Office of Public Affairs and Government Relations seeks to support legislation beneficial to the District and its two colleges—Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College. We work to expand and maintain financial opportunities throughout the District by fostering and sustaining relationships with elected officials, government agencies, and industry experts. Through coordinated efforts with Capitol Advocacy Partners, the District has identified several federal legislative priorities to focus our advocacy efforts in 2020. If you have questions or need more information about any of the outlined priorities, please view the contact information below or visit www.socccd.edu.

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