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Date: May 16, 2007

To: CSU Provosts

From: Gary Reichard



Subject: Cal-PASS

The California State University is committed to collaborative efforts among its partners in education. The California Partnership for Achieving Student Success (Cal-PASS) is a state-supported initiative that collects, analyzes, and shares student data in order to track student performance and improve student success from elementary school through college. Over 2,000 elementary schools, high schools, community colleges, and universities from over 25 California counties are participating in this partnership. Through the Cal-PASS project, elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as colleges, can assess how well prepared and successful their students are when they move to the next educational level by tracking how students transition from one educational segment to the next. Cal-PASS is truly a special collaboration between K-12, the community colleges, and four-year colleges in building regional data-sharing consortia to advance student transition and academic success.

This office sent a letter to provosts in July 2004 encouraging CSU campuses to participate in Cal-PASS, and this communication renews our request to encourage campuses either to renew expired or execute first-time Memoranda of Understanding with Cal-PASS. CSU participation in Cal-PASS will help us to analyze student academic preparation and transition from high school to community colleges and transfer from the community colleges to CSU campuses in a way that was not possible before.

The Cal-PASS data system is not a public system. Data and resulting reports are for internal program improvement purposes only. Access is limited to consortium members who sign MOUs. Each participating institution signs an agreement to provide data once a year that focus on student transcript information such as courses, grades, and outcomes. To ensure confidentiality and consistency with FERPA (Family Education Rights and Privacy Act) guidelines, students' social security numbers are encrypted.

Bakersfield
Channel Islands
Chico
Dominguez Hills
East Bay

Fullerton
Humboldt
Long Beach
Los Angeles
Maritime Academy

Northridge
Pomona
Sacramento
San Bernardino
San Diego

San José
San Luis Obispo
San Marcos
Sonoma
Stanislaus

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Cal-PASS Professional Learning Councils--regional councils consisting of teams of discipline-specific faculty from middle schools, high schools, community colleges, and universities--operate within each consortium to identify issues that affect student achievement and transition across segments. Faculty members initiate teaching innovations at all educational levels, many of which support existing CSU programs such as the Early Assessment Program (EAP) and the Lower Division Transfer Patterns (LDTP) project. Current Cal-PASS Professional Learning Councils include several CSU faculty members who work directly with high schools and community colleges to design and implement curriculum alignment activities that lead to better prepared students entering the CSU system. Their expertise and experience have been invaluable to their community college and K-12 colleagues. Cal-PASS is seeking more CSU faculty members to participate on these Professional Learning Councils.

More detailed information about Cal-PASS and steps to follow to participate, including a MOU template, are available at www.cal-pass.org. If you have any questions about the program or need more information, please feel free to contact the Cal-PASS Executive Director Dr. Brad Phillips at bphillips@calpass.org or (619) 252-8503 or Allison G. Jones, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs at ajones@calstate.edu or (562) 951-4744. Questions about the CSU memorandum of understanding and other data sharing issues may be addressed to Dr. Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Academic Research and Resources, at mhirano-nakanishi@calstate.edu or (562) 951-4767.

Again, we encourage you to become involved with Cal-PASS in your region. The outcome of this unique collaboration may help to inform policy discussions about ways to improve student access and academic success in the California State University, especially as we continue our work on the Access to Excellence strategic plan.

GWR:tv

cc: Dr. Charles B. Reed
Mr. Richard P. West
Dr. Keith Boyum
Mr. Allison G. Jones
Dr. Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi
Mr. Patrick Lenz
Ms. Karen Y. Zamarripa
Vice Presidents of Student Affairs
CSU Presidents
Dr. Barry Pasternack, Academic Senate Chair