

# California Community Colleges Baccalaureate Degree Study Group



## Background:

There has been renewed interest in the addition of bachelor degree options to the California community college mission. The establishment of bachelor degree programs at community colleges is seen by some as a strategy to increase college participation rates for local residents who are unable to relocate because of family or work commitments or to address the needs of rural communities and the state's need for additional bachelor degree-trained individuals in high demand disciplines.

A Task Force to study the issue will be appointed by the Chancellor to review the various aspects of bachelor degrees at community colleges. Many states have ongoing programs that provide research into the effectiveness of the programs. In addition, current demographic, economic, and workforce trends will be analyzed to determine the need for such a program in California.

## Charge:

The study group will look at the following factors, in addition to others:

- How would bachelor's degree programs complement other programs and courses offered by the community colleges.
- How bachelor's degree programs would address specific regional or state workforce needs.
- Documented demand for additional bachelor's graduates in the programs proposed.
- Additional costs of delivering the proposed bachelor's degree programs.
- Admission criteria that could be used by colleges in selecting students to be admitted to the bachelor's degree programs along with the number of students to be admitted to and served by the programs.
- Whether the proposed bachelor's degree programs would unnecessarily duplicate the degree programs offered by other postsecondary education institutions in certain regions (CSU, UC, and private).
- How articulation strategies might complement or possibly limit the movement of students from community colleges to the CSU or UC systems.

- The implications on the existing accreditation of California community colleges should the bachelor's degree option be added.
- Ability of community colleges to support bachelor's degree programs including the adequacy of facilities, faculty, administration, libraries, and other student support and academic resources.
- What changes would be needed at the Chancellor's Office to support community college bachelor's degree (curriculum, student services, fiscal, facilities, etc.) programs.
- Data collection and evaluation needed to measure the success and effectiveness of bachelor's degree program.

## **Membership:**

Chief Executive Officers  
 California Community College Trustees  
 Chief Instructional Officers  
 Chief Student Services Officers  
 Chief Business Officers  
 Faculty Senate (four members)  
 Student Senate (two members)  
 Research and Planning Group  
 University of California  
 California State University

## **Timeline:**

|                 |                                       |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| May             | Announcement of Study Group           |
| June-July       | Research                              |
| August-December | Task Force Meetings                   |
| January         | Report Provided to Board of Governors |

## **Outcome:**

A report will be generated that will provide the Chancellor and the Board of Governors an analysis and possible recommendations on whether and how the state should move forward with implementation of bachelor's degree programs within the California community colleges.