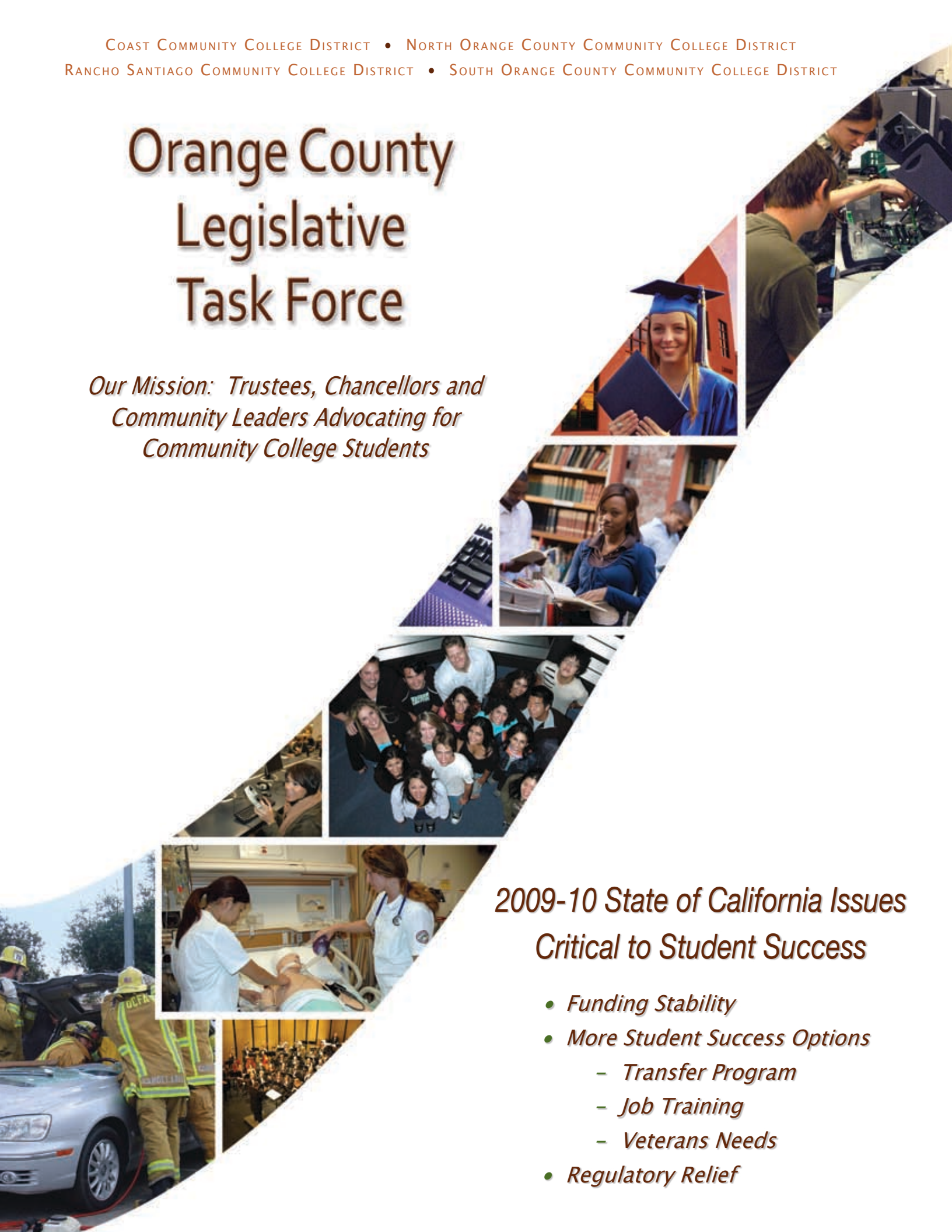


# Orange County Legislative Task Force

*Our Mission: Trustees, Chancellors and  
Community Leaders Advocating for  
Community College Students*



## *2009-10 State of California Issues Critical to Student Success*

- *Funding Stability*
- *More Student Success Options*
  - *Transfer Program*
  - *Job Training*
  - *Veterans Needs*
- *Regulatory Relief*

# State Issues Critical to Student Success

## Funding Stability

Funding stability is crucial, even in these difficult times, for community colleges to fulfill their mission to serve people from all walks of life and to prepare more citizens than ever to go back to work. During the past two academic years, funding allocations have been changed numerous times and then allocations have been deferred or delivered late. This has severely undermined the ability of the community colleges to meet the job training demands of communities in which unemployment percentages have reached unprecedented double digits. A more stable funding formula is critical for community colleges to meet the needs of our students and communities.

## More Student Success Options

It is time to stop talking about what the best options for student success are. It is time to simply make sure that students have as many options for success as possible.

- **Transfer Program** – Legislation is needed to require collaboration between the state’s public community colleges and universities to manage a more effective transfer program. Students and taxpayers should no longer suffer wasted time and dollars because course credits frequently do not transfer from one level to another. The universities must be required to honor their transfer agreements involving community college students and work with community colleges on a consistent data-collection process.
- **Job Training** – Community colleges, which are responsible for meeting the training needs of the community, must be given top priority for funding that goes to vocational and technical education programs. They should not have to compete with private entities for job-training funds, especially in the vital areas of community life such as: health care, emergency first responders, transportation, green technology, and homeland security.
- **Veterans Needs** – Legislation should continually be enacted to address the educational needs of veterans of the United States Military. This should include funding to directly assist individual veterans in special centers, with services customized to their unique needs. The doors of higher education should be open wide to all of those who have served to protect our country.

## Regulatory Relief

With a declining level of funding, community colleges require regulatory relief to maintain educational quality. The California Community Colleges State Chancellor’s Office should be given authority to modify regulatory requirements for community college programs or initiatives in direct proportion to the level of state funding decreases for those programs and initiatives. Every effort should be made to streamline processes, rather than add new reporting and compliance requirements so that more funding goes directly to benefit programs and students. We urge the Legislature to continue to enable local Boards of Trustees and the current system-driven accreditation process to determine student learning outcomes.

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## IT PAYS TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY COLLEGES!

### *According to a Recent Socioeconomic Study of All Orange County Community College Districts*

- Approximately 272,000 students attend our colleges each year, more than 6% of Orange County’s three million residents.
- Taxpayers receive a 15% return on annual investment from Orange County’s 11 community college campuses.
- Orange County owes roughly \$7.3 billion of its current labor and non-labor income to its community colleges – roughly 6.5% of a typical year’s regional economic growth.
- California benefits from Orange County’s community colleges through improved health as well as reduced welfare, unemployment and crime, saving the public almost \$65 million per year.
- Orange County community college graduates enjoy a 17% annual return on investment of their time and money – earning \$365,000 more during a working lifetime than those with only high school diplomas.