



COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE  
OF CALIFORNIA

# A COLLEGE FOR ALL CALIFORNIANS

*The History of California's Community Colleges*

The League has embarked on a project to document the history of the California community college system.

Join us in telling the important story about the nation's largest public system of higher education.

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# A COLLEGE FOR ALL CALIFORNIANS

## About the Project

While scholars have published books about the American community college system and the California Master Plan, few have specifically focused on California Community Colleges, the largest system of public higher education in the nation. The League has embarked on a project to document the history of the California community college system. The project consists of:

- A book about the history of California's Community Colleges
- An interactive timeline on the League website
- Filmed oral history interviews

## Background

With approximately 2.1 million students in 2018, and as many as 2.9 million in 2009. One out of every five community college students in the United States attends a California community college (CCC), and more than 67 percent are students of color. California community colleges are also the largest provider of workforce education and training in the nation, and in 1907 the CCC System was the first in the US to be established in statute. Yet, relatively little is known about the evolution of this prominent and influential postsecondary system of education and the political, economic, demographic, and cultural issues constituting its formation.

Over the last 125 years, the mission of California's community colleges has expanded to include: transfer, career, workforce, developmental, and community education. As providers of affordable higher education and boasting highly diverse student bodies reflecting the national demographic trends, a work chronicling the California's community colleges' dynamic history and global reach is past due. The book and project will detail how visionary leaders advocated for the development of what were then known as junior colleges and their evolution throughout the 20th and 21st century.

## HELP US TELL OUR STORY!

Help us capture the depth and breadth of the history of California's community colleges. Please send or recommend the follow to [ccchistory@ccleague.org](mailto:ccchistory@ccleague.org).

### DOCUMENTS

- Significant historical documents from districts and/or colleges that will help illuminate and inform those interested in the history of CCC's.
- Foundational documents; proclamations; especially significant milestones, etc.

### PHOTOS

- Photos of historic events, buildings, etc. especially those with statewide historical significance (including prominent athletes and/or milestones in CCC athletics).

### INTERVIEWS

- Recommendations for individuals that we should consider for recorded interviews.