

Making College Dreams a Reality

UC Berkeley's Center for Educational Partnerships: Keeping the Gates Open

The UC Berkeley Center for Educational Partnerships (CEP) is critical to fulfilling Berkeley's mission to provide educational excellence while serving as a symbol of hope for all Californians. Each year, CEP programs deliver free academic enrichment, advising, and educational support services to over 60,000 K-12 and community college students and their families. The Center engages thousands of educators through professional development on educational access and equity issues. Working with a minimal campus budget, CEP performs several functions vital to ensuring that UC Berkeley remains respected and admired throughout the state:

- ▶ CEP serves as a key conduit to the University for students that are hard to reach. While UC Berkeley has little trouble attracting applicants generally, low-income, first-generation-college and underrepresented minority students may never apply or become admissible without the direct contact provided by a CEP staff member.
- ▶ CEP programs have historically provided national leadership in improving college going for students underrepresented in higher education. From pioneering programs like Puente and Upward Bound to innovative approaches like near-peer college advising, CEP's work has been emulated throughout the country.
- ▶ CEP programs provide tangible evidence of the University's commitment to engagement with the larger community. With UC Berkeley subject to frequent town-gown challenges and criticism of an "ivory tower" mentality, CEP programs enable the campus to demonstrate that it remains invested in the local community.
- ▶ Key state decision makers judge the campus by the composition of a student body made more diverse by the work of CEP. CEP's success in keeping the gates open increases the diversity of the student body. CEP ensures that students of all backgrounds (and their families) see earning a Berkeley degree as a prestigious honor that can lead to a lifetime of success.

The Center of Educational Partnerships gives promising students the means to demonstrate that they would be strong students at Berkeley and other institutions of higher education. CEP advisors encourage students to raise their aspirations for an advanced education and a better career. Through CEP's programs, students learn how to identify and fight for a strong college preparatory curriculum, gain the confidence to see themselves as college material, and develop the ability to tell their stories effectively. Despite the obstacles they face, students who have been through CEP programs have been remarkably successful in achieving their college goals.

Mission

The Center for Educational Partnerships collaborates with schools, districts, families and communities to increase college access and success for students facing significant barriers to post-secondary education.

Background

CEP's programs help young people overcome educational and financial barriers to prepare for and be accepted at two- or four-year colleges. Eleven programs provide services free-of-charge to well over 60,000 students annually including summer programs that give hundreds of students academic enrichment while they experience campus life at Berkeley. More than 24,000 6-12 grade and community college students benefit from intensive cohort programs and academic classes; over 80% of community college students intensively served by CEP who apply to UCB successfully transfer to Cal – and they are often the first in their family to do so.

In addition, over 36,500 students are served through CEP's school-wide / systemic change programs which build college-going cultures in schools and districts which also reach another 8,000 teachers, counselors, administrators and family members. CEP, within UCB's Division of Equity & Inclusion, provides services at more than 125 schools and 68 California community colleges each year.

Diverse Programs

Kindergarten to College (School/University Partnerships) – Innovative initiatives open doors to college in many ways, such as: helping K-12 school teachers and counselors inspire ALL students to prepare for college; smoothing the transition from high school to community college to strengthen the transfer pathway; bringing multi-lingual and culturally appropriate college preparation information and resources to local neighborhoods; providing curriculum and technical assistance and developing the first web-based college-going resource (e.g., College Tools for Schools at <http://collegetools.berkeley.edu>, and <http://outreach.berkeley.edu>).

Early Academic Outreach Program – Brings advising and academic enrichment to 2,500 students annually in 15 Bay Area partner high schools. Additionally, Berkeley's summer Pre-College Academy offers about 250 high school students writing, math and engineering classes taught at a college pace. A ten-week SAT preparation course is offered. Rising seniors are given free tuition for regular UC Berkeley summer school classes and intensive, hands-on assistance with academic and financial aid applications. Ninety percent of EAOP graduates immediately enroll in higher education after high school.

East Bay Consortium – Provides academic enrichment and college advising primarily through three College & Career Information Centers in Oakland. Individual services and workshop supports include an intensive 4-week summer academic enrichment at Merritt College for rising 8-12 graders, year-round tutoring and mentoring, parent workshops, College Fair at UCB, and Cash for College workshops throughout the East Bay. EBC also sponsors the *I'm Going to College* program for 5th graders at select Oakland elementary schools, a week long Teacher Institute for OUSD math teachers, and awards up to \$5,000 in scholarships to seniors who have participated in EBC programs.

Talent Search Program – A Pre-College TRIO program, Talent Search provides crucial support for 6-12th grade students in ten Oakland and West Contra Costa County schools. Four-week summer programs plus year-round services help students choose the right classes, complete the financial aid and college admissions processes, and take college and university tours. SAT/ACT test preparation and fee waivers are available to those who qualify. Ninety-five percent of TS graduates go on to higher education, and receive more than \$2.5 million in financial aid for college each year.

Upward Bound/Upward Bound Math & Science Programs –Pre-College TRIO programs with six-week intensive, residential academic enrichment courses bring disadvantaged high school students to Berkeley, giving them a jump on academic content and college readiness. Upward Bound was UC Berkeley's first academic preparation program for high school students, established in 1966 to serve Bay Area students. Upward Bound Math & Science serves students from California, Hawaii, Arizona, Nevada and the Pacific Islands. Ninety-six percent of Upward Bound Math & Science graduates enroll in higher education.

CAL Prep – Early-college public charter school opened in the fall of 2005 as a partnership of Aspire Public Schools and UC Berkeley (led by the Graduate School of Education and the Division of Equity & Inclusion through the Center for Educational Partnerships). The school creates an environment of high expectations while providing intensive support to help all students close the achievement gap and be academically successful. The majority low-income, 97% African American and Latino, and first to college student body has shown powerful academic progress and all graduates attend college

Community College Transfer Center/Transfer Alliance Project – Provides transfer assistance and workshops for all potential UC transfer students from California Community Colleges. In addition, the Transfer Alliance Project (TAP) provides intensive, one-on-one, student-centered services for over 1,000 students at 21 northern and 10 southern California Community Colleges. TAP participants successfully transfer to UC Berkeley at a rate that is nearly three times the overall transfer admission rate. TAP students account for nearly 20% of all under-represented transfers to Cal in recent years.

Destination College Advising Corps – Powerful peer and near-peer advising programs to increase college-going at low performing K-12 schools. First generation college-goers and under-represented students are 20% more likely to be accepted to college if they meet with an adviser than their peers. The *Destination College Advising Corps* trains and places recent Cal grads in middle and high schools to support students facing barriers to college going. The 39 intensively trained full-time Advisers provide one-on-one college-advising services to 10,000 students and group services for at least 25,000.

The Puente Project – A nationally recognized program founded in 1981, Puente works with 34 high schools and 61 community colleges across California plus five community colleges in Texas to benefit 14,000 students annually. Puente staff train high school and community college instructors and counselors to implement a program of rigorous instruction, focused academic counseling, and mentoring by community members. Puente increases the number of educationally underserved students who enroll in and complete four-year college degrees and who return to their communities as mentors and leaders of future generations.

Solano County Educational Consortium – A consortium of higher education institutions, school districts, school sites and community-based organizations to serve 15 high schools and middle schools in Solano county. The goal is to improve the academic performance and college attendance rates of low-income, first generation college-bound youth. SCEC places approximately 20 local college students in target schools to serve as role models and provide resources on college going in under-resourced communities.

PARTNERSHIP WITH WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

CEP is proud to be in partnership with West Contra Costa Unified School District since the 1970s, and through our substantial investment propelling thousands of low-income, first generation students of color and their families to post-secondary opportunities in college and career. Our most powerful programs work hand-in-hand to motivate and raise student and family aspirations, while providing the nuts and bolts information to create and complete an academic plan that opens options and opportunities both in and beyond high school. Through our programs, students and their families are armed with the knowledge they need to choose the right post-secondary option, apply, get financial aid and make the decision of what is the best next step for a student to fulfill their future dreams.

THE PRINCIPLES THAT GUIDE OUR WORK IN WEST CONTRA COSTA

- We must prepare all students for college AND career (not an either or).
- All students and families must have knowledge about the college/career process and receive the support they need to succeed (including application, financial aid, career awareness).
- We work in partnership with WCCUSD and Contra Costa Community College, as well as other college and career access programs.
- We encourage students to look at all their options for two-year, four-year, trade and other post-secondary institutions.
- We facilitate resources flowing to WCCUSD towards meeting these goals.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF CEP PROGRAMS ACTIVE IN WEST CONTRA COSTA

Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP)

Works with students at all six of West Contra Costa's comprehensive high schools.

EAOP offers advising and academic enrichment to prepare students for college. An intensive yet supportive summer Pre-College Academy on the Berkeley campus offers students math, language and science classes taught at a college pace. Rising seniors are given free tuition for regular UC Berkeley Summer Session classes and hands-on assistance with academic and financial aid applications. Ninety percent of graduates immediately enroll in higher education after high school.

For the first six months of 2014-15, EAOP served nearly 500 students in all six comprehensive high schools. We expect to recruit an additional 240 ninth graders over the spring semester.

Pre-College TRIO Talent Search Program (TS)

TS serves six (6) WCCUSD schools: Helms, Korematsu and Pinole middle schools; De Anza, El Cerrito, and Pinole Valley high schools.

TS has been serving WCCUSD since 1970. TS's primary objective is to assist low-income/first generation college students with staying in school, successful advancement to the next grade level, high school graduation, and matriculation into some form of post-secondary education. Services include academic and personal guidance, SAT/ACT college test preparation, college visits, transcript evaluation, long term academic planning, parent awareness, college financial aid and admissions application preparation

assistance, and college tours for students at all grade levels. In addition, TS offers a four-week summer academic enrichment program on the Berkeley campus for middle and high school students.

Last year TS enrolled and served 750 students in WCCUSD and helped place 118 seniors (89%) from WCCUSD into some form of post-secondary education.

Pre-College TRIO Upward Bound (UB) / Upward Bound Math & Science Program (UBMS)

Upward Bound has served El Cerrito, Kennedy, and Richmond high schools of the WCCUSD for over 30 years, and remains committed to providing services to deserving students in the future. All Upward Bound students receive year-round services in academic, personal, and social activities and support. A six-week summer residential session gives student participants the opportunity to live in a UCB dormitory, and experience a comprehensive program of classes in English, math, and an academic elective; evening tutorial sessions; workshops of social and cultural significance; and organized recreational activities.

Last year 61 students participated in Upward Bound and 14 participated in the Upward Bound Math & Science Program (UBMS), a TRiO program focused on students interested in pursuing careers in math and science. UBMS students are selected from partner UB and Educational Talent Search projects from California, Hawaii, Arizona, Nevada and the Pacific Islands.

All 15 seniors who graduated in 2014 were admitted to four-year or two-year colleges or universities.

Destination College Advising Corps (DCAC)

The Destination College Advising Corps has worked at De Anza and Richmond HS since 2010 and now due to the support of Chancellor Dirks and the District, are working full time at all six West Contra Costa high schools to complement and strengthen the work of counselors and teachers to inspire and prepare students for post-secondary education. DCAC aims to increase the number of low-income, first-generation and underrepresented students who enter and complete higher education by placing recent (mostly UC Berkeley) graduates—many of whom are themselves first-generation college students—as college advisers in communities with low college-going rates. DCAC Advising Fellows are intensively trained in a month long summer boot camp program.

In the first six months of 2014-15, DCAC has served nearly 650 students individually, and almost 1,800 students through classroom and workshop group sessions.

Transcript Evaluation Service (UCB in partnership with the University of California, Office of the President -UCOP)

Due to the partnership between UC Berkeley and West Contra Costa Unified School District, all six comprehensive high schools have access to the Transcript Evaluation Service in 2014-15. TES is a tool that uploads and analyzes transcript data for districts, schools and individual students in grades 9-12 to assess course taking patterns and grades, highlighting progress toward meeting entrance requirements for UC and CSU ("a-g"). TES evolved into a productivity tool for all phases of college advising over the past ten years and was used primarily by CEP staff and counselors in De Anza and Richmond High Schools during that time to assess post-secondary preparation, access, and success; inform students, their families and schools of "a-g" progress and patterns and support data driven school planning. TES

analysis has demonstrated that the number and percent of students at De Anza and Richmond HS meeting the “a-g” requirements has increased over the last three years.

East Bay Consortium

The East Bay Consortium directs a set of initiatives that provide the information and support for students and families to secure Financial Aid. In 2014-15, EBC ran six Cash for College Workshops in WCCUSD, with nearly 400 students and 300 families participating. These annual events are a primary vehicle for students and families to complete the FAFSA application, without which students cannot access most financial aid opportunities. And this year, for the first time, due to the efforts of EBC, WCC uploaded GPA data district-wide to facilitate students receiving CAL Grants. In addition, CEP programs provided financial aid workshops for 330 Richmond HS students. As of February 28, 2015 (most recent data), there have been 628 FAFSA applications submitted—most families wait till the March 2 deadline.

The Puente Project

Puente provides a program of rigorous instruction, focused academic counseling, and mentoring by community members at Contra Costa Community College (CCCC) to prepare students for transfer and success in completing a four-year college degree.

There are 110 Puente students at CCCC. 66% of CCCC Puente students who enrolled in 2008-9 to earn a degree or achieve a transfer-related outcome did so within six years (by 2013-14) while in comparison, the rate for all CCCC students is 47%. In addition, over half (53%) of Puente students who entered CCCC in 2008-9 transferred by 2013-14 compared with 28% of all CCCC students.

Community College Transfer Center (CCTC) and Transfer Alliance Project (TAP)

CCTC offers transfer assistance and workshops for all potential UC transfer students. TAP enrolls a cohort of low-income, first generation students who receive intensive and on-going one-on-one advising.

Over the past three years, TAP served 209 students and CCTC 175. For the last three years, a total of 65 TAP students applied to UC Berkeley, and 55 (85%) were admitted and 54 enrolled.

RECENT EXPANSION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN WCCUSD AND CEP

Pre-College Academy (EAOP): Through a collaboration between CEP and the District, we will expand the Pre-College Academy that offers students math, writing and engineering classes taught at a college pace on the Berkeley Campus. Through this partnership we will increase the number of WCC students served from 33 to 120.

Destination College Advising Corps: Due to the Chancellor’s inspiring visit Richmond HS, his first high school visit since becoming Chancellor, the Chancellor made a commitment at a White House Summit in January 2014 to expand the Destination College Advising Corps to all comprehensive high schools in WCCUSD. His pledge, along with support from the district made this possible for 2014-15.

Transcript Evaluation Service: Due to the partnership between UC Berkeley and WCCUSD, the University of California Office of the President awarded all six WCCUSD comprehensive high schools a

free TES sponsorship for the next three years. Therefore, all WCC high schools will be able to upload, in real time, a web-based analysis of their student's progress in meeting "a-g" and evaluate access and equity to the college prep curriculum. In this way, the District and schools can identify barriers and together develop solutions to increase student success.

CAL Prep: Charter school founded in 2005 by UCB and Aspire Public Schools is moving to Hilltop in Richmond in fall 2015. The school will serve approximately 400 students in grades 6-12 from throughout the Bay Area. The school is authorized through the WCCUSD.