

Free Online Resources for Transfer-Bound CCC Students

As students start back to college, the reality of having fewer resources to meet their needs shows in many ways. With a 7.9% cut to the California Community Colleges' (CCC) budget for 2009-10, nearly every campus has reduced its class schedule, some by more than 10%. Some campuses are reporting most course sections totally full. As classes started, many courses had long waiting lists, and we heard, anecdotally, of a new breed of "freeway flyers"—a term that has referred to part-time faculty teaching a course or courses at each of two or more CCC campuses—but is now being used to describe students who are taking classes at two or more campuses to get the courses they need. Disadvantaged students face reduced support services due to the severe Budget cuts for most categorical programs, and the flexibility that may shift funding from certain categorical programs to others.

Nevertheless, many CCC students are looking to the future—making decisions about where to transfer to complete their four-year degree. They may be doing this with fewer counselors and less outreach by colleges and universities. Many families are also struggling with the resources needed to properly research four-year college opportunities and cannot afford to visit every possible campus.

We'd like to bring College Week Live to your attention as a free resource that can help bridge that gap. College Week Live is the world's largest college fair and is free to students and families. There are two upcoming events that we believe may be of significant benefit to your students.

The first event will take place on Thursday, October 1, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Pacific Time. The University of California (UC) system will be hosting a college fair for prospective students who are interested in attending a school within the UC system. The online fair will feature virtual booths for each campus of the UC system and will include information on admissions, academics, athletics, financial aid, and campus housing. There will be several live video webcam sessions with currently enrolled students who will be able to give the real story about life on their respective campuses. While designed for incoming high school students and their families, this college fair should also provide a wealth of information for CCC students who are thinking of transferring to a UC.

The second event is scheduled for November 4-7 and features colleges and universities throughout the United States giving students an opportunity to explore campuses they might never before have considered in real time.

We hope you will distribute this information to your students and families as soon as possible and that it will be of benefit to them.

For information about the University of California Day, go to:

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/CollegeWeekLive/UCDay/prweb2754824.htm>

Materials about these events (flyer, poster, sample plain text e-mail, etc.) are available for download at http://www.collegeweeklive.com/en_CA/guest/app-counselors.

Additional information about College Week Live is available at www.collegeweeklive.com

[Posted to the Internet 9/16/09]

—*Terry Anderson and Deborah Harmon*