

Community College Pathway to Law School

Annual Report Summary

Program Overview

The Community College Pathway to Law School (CCPLS) Initiative is a pilot program, first launched at Solano College in the Fall Semester of 2014. The Initiative is the first and only of its kind to provide not only a clear pathway to law school, but also, collaborative buy-in from three different levels of academic instruction; Community College, University, and Law School. The CCPLS Initiative is the product of the visionary leadership of the California State Bar's Council on Access and Fairness (COAF). As a participating institution in the initiative, Solano Community College (SCC) partners with six top rated undergraduate and law school programs which include **UC Davis, UC Irvine, USF, Santa Clara University, Loyola Marymount and USC**. Students successfully completing the initiative will be eligible to take advantage of these partnerships toward the goal of achieving a legal education.

Program Goals and Yearly Objectives

Twenty percent of California state attorney's are from historically underrepresented backgrounds, however 90 percent of the persons utilizing legal services are members of historically underrepresented groups. The primary goal of the CCPLS Initiative is to bridge this gap by assisting students in the development of a unique set of skills aimed at preparing them for a career in the legal field. This level of rigorous academic preparation will ultimately assist in achieving greater diversity and advancement in the legal profession. The CCPLS Initiative encompasses three ancillary objectives undergirding the process of achieving diversity and advancement opportunities in the legal profession;

- (1) ***to assist in diversifying the legal profession to respond to a global marketplace*** — Each semester the CCPLS at SCC utilizing data corresponding to underrepresented

groups at the institution, makes concerted efforts through on campus and off-campus outreach to encourage a wide array of applicants to enter the program. The goal is reach a slate of interested students that encompass diverse cultural, ethnic, socioeconomic, social and political backgrounds.

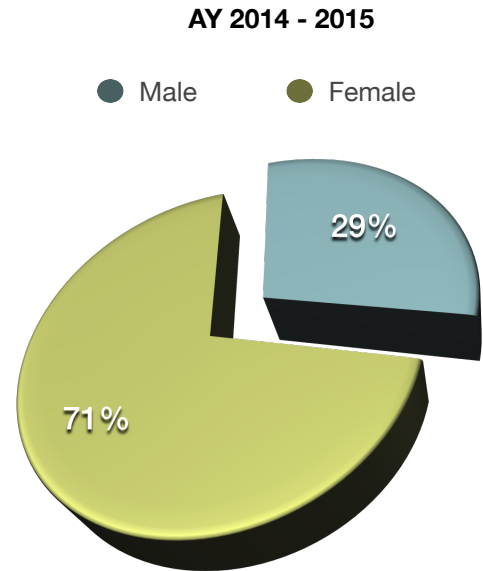
- (2) ***to reduce a broad array of costs associated with pursuing a legal education*** — Pursuit of a legal education is costly, however because the program meets student equity goals, the college is permitted to utilize these funds to assist in mitigating costs typically associated with not only pursuing such education but even acquiring information that might lead to interest in a legal education. Providing academic resources in form of embedded tutoring, counseling, Law School Tours, LSAT resources, application fee waivers, internship opportunities, and access to legal professionals; provide a unique opportunity to experience the legal profession and necessary avenues to acquiring information about the law that are in some cases cost prohibitive

- (3) ***to provide a systematic replicable model of approved academic course curriculum corresponding to IGETC requirements to ease and facilitate transfer*** — Each semester SCC is committed to providing course instruction in a method that is not only engaging but practical and relevant. The CCPLS Initiative at Solano relies upon our collection of excellent instructors and administrators, many of whom have signed on to become part of our embedded instructional core to ensure consistent delivery of thematic principles that are central to the program's vitality. We are excited for the continued partnership of Dr. Joel Powell, Nick Cittadino, Dr. Rischa Slade, Dr. Anthony Jones, and newly added faculty, Dr. Douglas Mungin. Moreover the program continues to provide not only the gamut of required courses, but an additional core of IGETC approved recommended courses aimed at enhancing the unique academic experience of students participating in the Initiative at SCC.

Program Data

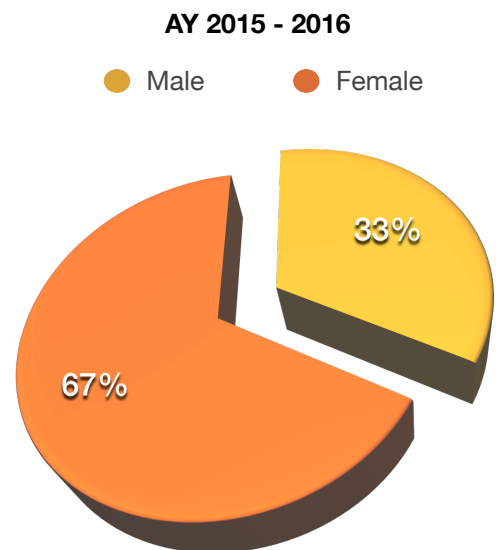
Academic Year 2014 – 2015 -- Statistical data for AY 14-15 show that the CCPLS was received well on campus. While the program state wide only requires a 2.5 GPA, Solano increased this provision requiring a 2.5 GPA to enter but maintenance of a higher GPA to remain active. Students met and exceeded the challenge, as student GPA's ranged between 2.8 and 3.2. CCPLS students also demonstrated high levels of success in their course work, achieving an 84% success rate and averaged 12 units per semester ensuring on time completion of both degree and program requirements.

Academic Year 2014 - 2015	
	CCPLS Cohort
Headcount	19
GPA Range	2.8 - 3.2
Success Rate	84.21%
Retention Rate	100%
Avg. Total Credits p/SEM	12



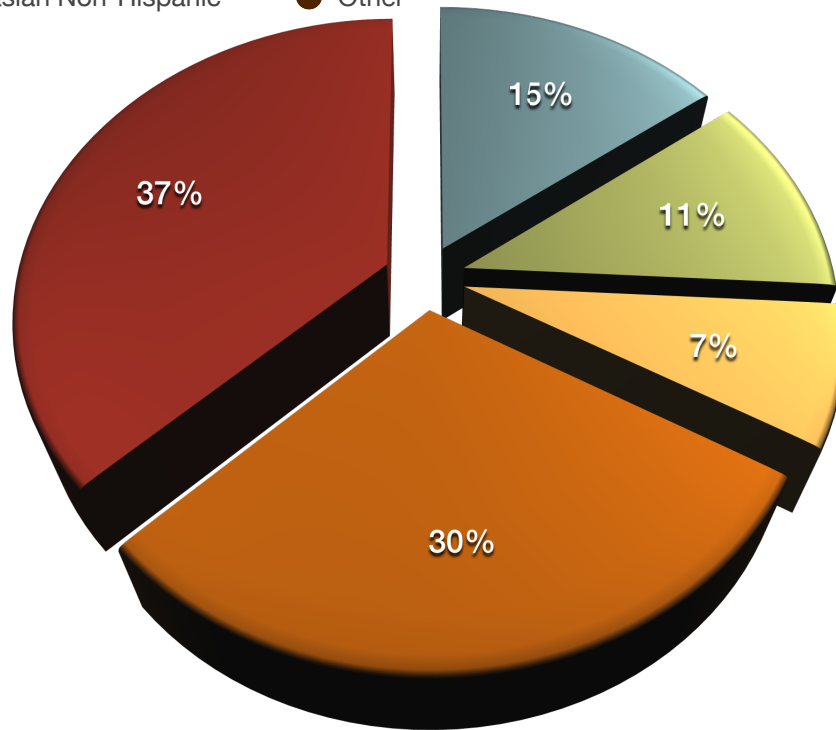
Academic Year 2015 – 2016 -- AY 2015 – 2016 saw a 30% increase in the number of CCPLS students joining the program. Additionally, the number of female, Hispanic and Caucasian students rose, indicating that target outreach to these underrepresented groups has and continues to be effective. GPA's dipped slightly but remained higher than the statewide requirement of 2.5 remained. Additionally, all eligible CCPLS Scholars graduated from SCC and were accepted to participating institutions and will be entering their first year of law school beginning in the Fall Semester of 2017

Academic Year 2015 - 2016	
	CCPLS Cohort
Headcount	27
GPA Range	2.6 - 2.8
% Graduating	100%
% Full Time Students	52.8%



AY 2015 - 2016

- Am. Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Black Non-Hispanic
- Hispanic
- Caucasian Non-Hispanic
- Other



Conclusion

The CCPLS Initiative looks to build upon the success of the two previous academic years, AY 2016- 2017 has already shown a 34% increase in membership and a 50% increase in submitted applications. The program will continue its Leadership Speaker Series, Law School Tours and will look to fill the remaining ranks of our embedded instructional core while developing a CCPLS specific scholarship. The continued support of the program by SCC Administration is critical to its success and the program administrators value the level of assistance provided by the College.