



To: Equity and Education Council

Cc: Advisory Council  
Community and Communication Council  
Revenue and Resources Council  
Administrative Council

Fr: Thuy Thi Nguyen, President

Date: March 26, 2021

Re: Dual Enrollment

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Thank you for your deliberation and memo on dual enrollment. Indeed, dual enrollment is both an enrollment and equity strategy: E<sup>2</sup>.

When one frames student equity, there are two common areas of focus: access and success. AB 288 (College and Career Access Pathways - CCAP) is a legislative solution that speaks to both: increase access for unrepresented students while knowing that such access would increase the academic success for underrepresented students based on statewide and national research. It is for these dual reasons that I had proposed this legislative solution several years ago, and we approached Assemblymember Craig Holden (an African American legislator in Southern California focused on social justice) to sponsor it.

As you noted, there is no doubt that dual enrollment is an equity strategy that enables unrepresented students to be successful in completing high school, going to college, and completing college successfully. For these and other reasons, the law has been amended recently to extend to January 2027 via AB 30 (Holden).

These past years, our college's dual enrollment has increased the number of Black and Latinx students and their academic success remains high while also increasing access for Asian Pacific Islanders and White students.

As noted in your Governance Memo, I agree:

“When implemented as per the spirit of AB288 law, we believe data from other colleges show us Dual Enrollment can be an Equity initiative. To expand on this:

- AB288 is intended to focus on marginalized student populations.
- Data has shown that marginalized student populations that enroll in college classes while still in high school have a greater chance of completing and being successful in college.”



Since your deliberation last year, our Dual Enrollment team has made shifts and has even declined requests by programs that do not meet the spirit of AB 288.

Our college will continue to offer dual enrollment opportunities for all students who qualify, and continue to partner with our local school districts, non-profits, and community organizations to ensure our college remains accessible through dual enrollment.

More importantly, we will focus our resources and energy on expanding AB 288 CCAP dual enrollment. The Strategic Vision for Success (a.k.a. “Equity Plan 2.0”) speaks to this commitment, and I look forward to E&E Council and our entire college community implementing the plan:

**Issue 3. More recent focused outreach with a specific intent to increase access and enrollment of Latinx and African American students doesn’t readily connect back to a larger strategy to support and retain these populations.**

“Dual enrollment (specifically, college classes taught at high schools) has been proposed as a strategy to address racial equity gaps. In the 2019-20 academic year, Foothill College’s Equity and Education governance council discussed this topic at length across multiple meetings.

It was recommended that the college should continue to build dual enrollment partnerships with area high schools, prioritizing those predominantly serving racially disproportionately impacted student groups. This recommendation aligns with AB288 and CCAP provisions. Both the college and the student benefit from translating high school work completed for college credit into future enrollment at Foothill, but the college needs to work to develop pipelines within these partnerships that seamlessly connect those students to degree, certificate, and transfer opportunities at Foothill.

Current partnerships, not limited to dual enrollment, were created as a result of Foothill staff doing the work of moving beyond the Foothill campus and venturing out into surrounding communities and seeking innovative ways to offer a college education to those that may not be able to access the opportunity otherwise. Foothill’s Family Engagement Institute has long fostered successful partnerships in the community to service some of the most vulnerable populations of students in the community. It is worth exploring their approach to the work and their model of service in providing exceptional support to these populations,



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Whether it is through a non-credit course, dual enrollment, adult education, summer academy, or career technical education pathways developed in concert with local non-profits, Foothill should work to not only understand the career and educational demands of those communities but demonstrate its ability to successfully meet those demands. With that, the Office of Equity proposes the following goals:"

**Goal 2: Foothill's CCAP dual enrollment partnerships have established pipelines from high school to Foothill College programs. Dual enrollment partnerships focus on expanding college access in the high schools for underrepresented student populations.**