



FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD COMMUNICATION

BC Number: EA - 1

|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| From the Office of the Superintendent   | Date: August 3, 2018   |
| To the Members of the Board of Education  |                        |
| Prepared by: David Jansen, Executive Officer  | Phone Number: 457-3813 |
| Cabinet Approval:    |                        |
| Regarding: <b>External Partnerships to Support College Pipeline</b>   |                        |
| <p>The purpose of this communication is to provide the Board information about key external partnerships the district is involved in to increase college degree attainment. The district actively partners with other institutions on multiple fronts to address a range of challenges that students face on the cradle to career continuum. The partnerships described here are limited to key efforts on the higher end of that continuum. 4-year degree attainment in Fresno County lags behind the state rate and the efforts described below will close that gap by, (1) ensuring leaders across K-12 and post-secondary segments are using shared metrics to understand the regional education system's 9th grade to BA performance, and (2) leaders identify priority strategies to improve college eligibility, enrollment, retention/transfer, and graduation among the region's students and have begun to execute on those strategies.</p> <p>College Futures Foundation awarded Fresno Unified School District a grant in 2016 to support Fresno Unified School District to work collaboratively with CSU, Fresno and Fresno City College to improve the alignment of data systems and coordination of resources between the institutions to increase student preparation, matriculation and transition into college, especially among student populations who are low-income and have had historically low college success rates. This data collaborative grant relies on data sharing agreements and the establishment of a secure means to exchange data with proper oversight. The grant was extended in 2017 based on the successful completion of milestones. The collaborative effort has resulted in multiple presentations involving Superintendent Nelson, President Castro, and President Goldsmith (California State University, Fresno and Fresno City College respectively). These collaborative efforts will inform the institutions and related efforts in the community.</p> <p>Fresno Unified School District is also at the leadership table for the development of a Fresno Region College Pipeline Plan being led by the Central Valley Community Foundation and also funded by a College Futures Foundation grant. This grant funds a planning process to develop a comprehensive, multi-sector strategy for increasing bachelor degree attainment in the Fresno region. A draft of the plan will be completed with roles and responsibilities of each major partner clearly delineated and benchmarks established by June 2019. The plan will be released to the public, including presentations to the school boards, community organizations, and statewide higher education stakeholder groups by December 2019.</p> <p>If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact David Jansen at 457-3813.</p> |                        |
| <b>Approved by Superintendent:</b><br>Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.    | Date: <u>8/3/18</u>    |