



News Release

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April 8, 2008

Event: “Opening the Doors to Undocumented Immigrant Students” Symposium

Presented by: Cuesta College and the Latina Leadership Network

Date: Friday, April 25, 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Press Conference at 10 a.m., Cuesta College Courtyard

Place: Cuesta College Student Conference Center, Room 5401

Event Contact: Janet Florez (805) 546-3100 ext. 2215 – (English)
Glenda Moscoso (805) 546-3100 ext. 4208 – (Spanish)

Cuesta College Aims to Increase Access to College

Cuesta College will host a FREE Symposium to help immigrant students’ access higher education

Cuesta College will host a free community symposium, “Opening the Doors to Undocumented Immigrant Students,” aimed at educating students, parents, personnel of K-12 schools, community colleges and universities, as well as social service providers, and community organizations about Assembly Bill 540 signed into law in 2001.

This law makes it possible for undocumented, immigrant students meeting specific guidelines to attend a California college or university and pay only in-state tuition fees. The symposium’s objective is to delineate the best practices for implementing this measure to ensure that undocumented, immigrant students are afforded every opportunity to attend an institution of higher learning.

A team of researchers lead by Professor William Perez of Claremont Graduate School will be on hand to discuss the history of AB 540 policies and current pending legislation focused on access to higher education for undocumented students. The research team will share findings about the socio-emotional challenges faced by these students and reveal successful coping strategies. Research-based recommendations will be offered for providing greater access to higher education for AB540 students. Information about state and federal policies that shape college access and suggestions for helping undocumented students persist through college admissions, attendance, and financial aid acquisition processes will be highlighted.

A key note address will be delivered by Senator Dean Florez immediately following a press conference at 10 a.m. Senator Florez will host a discussion on the current state budget cuts, the impacts the budget cuts will have on California’s future and his thoughts on increasing access to higher education for immigrant students.

Three break-out sessions will immediately follow at 11 a.m. where participants will be given the opportunity to discuss the path and policies leading to higher education for undocumented, immigrant students.

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<http://academic.cuesta.edu/pim/pr/index.htm>

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