



## **FACT SHEET: AB 2558 – Professional Development**

*As Introduced*

**Assembly Member Das Williams (D-Santa Barbara)**

### ***The California Community Colleges Urges Your Support of AB 2558***

#### **Background**

The Student Success Task Force of 2011 resulted in a historic series of recommendations to improve student outcomes in the California community college system. Included among these recommendations was a call to re-energize professional development opportunities and resources for all community college employees. A Professional Development Committee convened by the Chancellor's Office produced a report this fall to specify the steps needed to accomplish this goal.

#### **Problem**

Professional development resources for community college personnel have been in a state of neglect in recent years. A previous state funded program for this purpose lost its funding in 2002 and since then few resources for professional development have remained. The few professional development activities existing have been focused on faculty and not *all* campus employees, such as classified staff and administrators, who are also essential to providing a successful environment for students.

#### **What AB 2558 does**

AB 2558 revises current statute to establish the Community College Professional Development Program and authorizes the use of state money for those activities if it becomes available through the budget. It also clarifies that districts that participate in the Community College Professional Development Program must provide professional development opportunities to other staff as well as faculty.

#### **Why Professional Development is Important**

Simply put, students don't thrive in a vacuum. They need effective and well-trained personnel to help them with activities such as developing an education plan, navigating the assessment process, arranging their financial aid, and utilizing online resources. The diversity of our students also requires that campus personnel be trained and ready to serve a wide range of student needs. Finally, the changing nature of higher education demands that employees adapt to new technologies to stay up-to-date to better assist students. A highly skilled campus workforce will help our students become successful and complete their educational goals.

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