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New Report Finds Information on California College Employment Outcomes is Inconsistent, Incomplete, Inaccessible

Students, Policymakers Need Better Data to Shape Decision-making

Oakland, CA – One of the primary factors that students and families consider when deciding where to go to college is the likelihood that a particular program will lead to a successful career. California has long led the nation in developing and maintaining quality higher education options for students, as well as in providing financial aid and consumer protections for those who access that education. However, prospective students and policymakers cannot currently find comparable, transparent, and user-friendly employment outcome information for all of California’s postsecondary institutions.

[*Employment Outcomes at California Colleges: Improving Information for Students, Schools, and Policymakers*](#), a report released today by The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS), provides an overview of higher education employment outcomes data currently available in California, highlights where such data are lacking, and makes recommendations for how the state can improve its availability, comparability, and usability. Most importantly, the report recommends that reliable, verified state data be made available to all postsecondary students in California, no matter what kind of institution they attend.

“While not the only benefit of higher education, employment outcomes data can help students and policymakers make more informed decisions about – and investments in – postsecondary education and training,” said report author and TICAS policy analyst **Angela Perry**. “However, our study found the existing data in California are inconsistent, incomplete, and inaccessible.”

In addition, [the report](#) also highlights qualities of several systems developed in other states, which can serve as examples as California develops a model statewide system.

“Key student outcomes data should be available for students at all postsecondary schools, but right now some of our most vulnerable students have the least reliable data – or no data at all,” noted TICAS executive vice president **Debbie Cochrane**. “California can and should do better.”

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An independent, nonprofit organization, The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS) works to make higher education more available and affordable for people of all backgrounds. Our Project on Student Debt works to increase public understanding of student debt and the implications for our families, economy, and society. For more information see www.ticas.org or follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).