



MEDIA ADVISORY

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New Analysis of What College Costs for Low-Income Students in California TICAS to Testify at CA Senate Hearing on Community College Affordability this Wednesday

Debbie Cochrane, research director at The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS), will testify before the California Senate Budget Subcommittee on Education at a hearing on community college affordability this Wednesday, February 3.

Her testimony will highlight a [new TICAS analysis](#) showing that, in most regions of the state, it costs low-income students *more* to attend a community college than a public university.

As Ms. Cochrane will testify, the primary cost barrier is not tuition/fees: California community colleges have the lowest tuition/fees in the state, and 70 percent of full-time community college students get their tuition/fees waived. Instead, the other costs of college – including textbooks, transportation, and living costs – are substantial, and California’s low-income students receive less aid to cover these costs at community colleges than at public universities. As a result, attending a community college can cost low-income students more than \$5,000 more than the next most affordable option.

WHAT: TICAS’s Debbie Cochrane testifies on California community college affordability before the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Education (testimony will include new TICAS [analysis](#))

WHEN: Wednesday, February 3, 2016 (the hearing begins at 1:30pm PST)

WHERE: California State Capitol Room 3191

For questions or to schedule an interview, please contact Shannon Serrato at sserrato@ticas.org or 510-318-7906. Ms. Cochrane is available for comment in advance or at the hearing in person.

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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 rising 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](#).