UCLA BRIEFING IN SACRAMENTO SHOWS BARRIERS TO COLLEGE
PUT STATE’S ECONOMY AT GREATER RISK FROM BUDGET CUTS

---Los Angeles---As the California legislature struggles to resuscitate a budget compromise from Governor Brown’s veto, a series of reports developed over the last year by the UCLA Civil Rights Project provide important details on the state’s fiscal crisis and its particular toll on the California State University system. The UCLA reports were discussed earlier this month at a policy briefing in Sacramento attended by 90 representatives from different sectors including the California State University system, legislative staffers, policy makers, education advocates, and the media. Steve D. Boilard, director of higher education at the Legislative Analyst’s Office; Stacy Wilson, senior researcher at the California Postsecondary Education Commission, and Kathleen Chavira, principal consultant to the California Senate Education Committee, provided commentary on the UCLA studies and offered their perspectives on the future of the CSUs.

The UCLA researchers credit the CSUs as linchpin to a college degree for the majority of Latino, African American and American Indian students in the state. The reports see the budget cuts as having major civil rights implications for these students and clearly show the dramatic effects of cuts implemented prior to this year, with future cutbacks soon to be imposed certain to intensify the situation.

For many years, California has restricted access to four-year public colleges more than many other states, accepting only the top third of students to the CSU system. The state is now well entrenched in further limiting college access just as 4-year degrees become much more important. A new report from Georgetown University notes the alarming rise in income inequality in the U.S. that results from three decades of underproduction of college graduates.

CRP Co-director, Patricia Gándara stated it this way: “Short-sighted policies mean California is eating its seed corn and cutting off access to college, in a state already projected to be short a million college graduates needed for its future labor market.”

A recent economic study by the Brookings Institute in Washington, DC showed that recent college graduates earned nearly twice as much as high school graduates and were far less likely to be unemployed, even at the peak of the current Great Recession. Recent college graduates made $581/week compared to the $305/week earned by high school graduates. More than a third of high school graduates and 57% of young dropouts were jobless -- but college graduates fared much better. No matter how discouraging the job market seems, college graduates appear to do better than those without degrees.
--Summary of Findings of UCLA Reports--

• A survey of students CSU Northridge shows widespread family distress, tremendous pressure on students struggling to meet rising costs, and the delay in completing their studies by of a year or more due to the lack of key classes.

• A survey of CSU faculty across the system, coupled with in-depth interviews on one campus, shows that faculty feel intense pressure from larger classes, do more with less support, worry about students desperate for classes, limit their professional activities and have widespread pessimism about the future of their university.

• Outreach, counseling, support services and remediation are critical for most of California’s Latino and African American students who attend weak segregated high schools, have little information about college and often need remediation regardless of their abilities, yet these services are being substantially reduced by cutbacks. These reductions, together with earlier entry deadlines imposed by space constraints, hinders the most disadvantaged students, in particular, from attending college.

Civil Rights Project Co-Director, Gary Orfield, commented: “There is no balancing of costs and benefits in this budget situation. Opponents of funding the CSU defend very small tax cuts for California citizens, but favor imposing huge new taxes in the form of tuition increases on all of the students, since the colleges have no other way to get the money they need to operate even at a reduced level.”

A podcast of the June 15 policy briefing in Sacramento can be found at: http://www.stanford.edu/group/pace/cgi-bin/wordpress/2453

A video webcast is available at the California Channel: http://www.calchannel.com/channel/viewVideo/2681

The full 191-page UCLA report is available at: http://civilrightsproject.ucla.edu/research/college-access/diversity/the-csu-crisis-and-californias-future-authors-and-abstracts

The studies included in the series, THE CSU CRISIS AND CALIFORNIA’S FUTURE, include seven commissioned by a panel of experts from among research proposals from across the state.

SQUEEZED FROM ALL SIDES: A SURVEY OF STUDENTS AT CSUN by Patricia Gándara and Gary Orfield

FACULTY UNDER SIEGE: DEMORALIZATION AND EDUCATIONAL DECLINE IN THE CSU by Gary Orfield

THE WORST OF TIMES: FACULTY PRODUCTIVITY AND JOB SATISFACTION DURING THE CSU CRISIS by Helen H. Hyun, Rafael M. Diaz, and Sahar Khoury

HIGHER TUITION, MORE WORK, AND ACADEMIC HARM: AN EXAMINATION OF THE IMPACT OF TUITION HIKES ON THE EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCES OF UNDER-REPRESENTED MINORITY STUDENTS by Amy Leisenring

THE STATE UNIVERSITY GRANT PROGRAM AND ITS EFFECTS ON UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS AT THE CSU by José L. Santos

REMEDIATION AS A CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUE IN THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM by Kimberly R. King, Suzanne McEvoy, and Steve Teixeira
ECONOMIC CRISIS AND THE CALIFORNIA STATE PUBLIC UNIVERSITY: THE INSTITUTIONAL, PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL EFFECTS ON FACULTY AND STUDENTS by David Boyns, Amy Denissen, and Alexandra Gerbasi

YOU WILL HAVE TO WORK TEN TIMES AS HARD AT THE CSU: REDUCING OUTREACH AND RECRUITMENT IN TIMES OF ECONOMIC CRISIS by Rebecca Joseph with the assistance of Mario Castaneda

About the Civil Rights Project at UCLA
Founded in 1996 by former Harvard professors Gary Orfield and Christopher Edley Jr., the Civil Rights Project/Proyecto Derechos Civiles is now co-directed by Orfield and Patricia Gándara, professors at UCLA. Its mission is to create a new generation of research in social science and law on the critical issues of civil rights and equal opportunity for racial and ethnic groups in the United States. It has commissioned more than 400 studies, published 13 books and issued numerous reports from authors at universities and research centers across the country. The Supreme Court, in its 2003 Grutter v. Bollinger decision, cited the Civil Rights Project’s research.

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