



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 30, 2023

California Community Colleges Chief Student Services Officers Association Position Statement on SCOTUS decisions  
re: Affirmative Action, student loan debt forgiveness, limiting LGBTQ protections

As an association comprised of Student Services leaders for the California Community College system, the Chief Student Services Officers (CSSO) Association is gravely disappointed in the Supreme Court's decision to eliminate the consideration of race in college and university admissions processes, to legalize discrimination against LGBTQ communities, and to reject a plan for student loan debt forgiveness.

The CSSO Association is rooted in racial equity, social justice and student success. Our dedication to holistic and wrap-around support for student success is fueled by the awareness that our educational pathways systemically and categorically favor families of privilege and legacies that maintain systemic inequities. These Supreme Court decisions uphold this practice and contribute to policy change at the expense of our students.

This ruling further perpetuates systemic inequities, limits educational opportunities, and forcefully debilitates our college and university efforts to promote racial diversity and foster inclusive spaces for our students. As champions of equity and racial justice, we understand how race-consciousness in our community engagement, outreach, and recruitment is a tool of equity. We remain steadfast and committed to implementing equity interventions to dismantle policies and practices that uphold power and privilege.

We invite, embrace and support our communities to live in the fullness of their queerness, their gender expression, and their fluidity. This past year, the CSSOs centered our yearly programming on liberation, radical dreams, and action. In this spirit, we are committed to continue building stronger spaces that welcome the fullest expression of all our identities and uplift the needs and joys of our LGBTQIA+ communities. We also understand that the promise of additional aid - especially in the way of loans for middle and low income communities - reproduces cycles of inequity and further excludes and alienates our communities. As Student Services leaders, our commitment is to continue finding ways to extra resource financial literacy, support and wellness programs that address the systemic underpinnings of poverty as well as the need for more free college and basic needs resources for students.

We call on all Student Services leaders throughout the system. We call on all leaders of educational policy and reform. We call on each of us to continue teaching and learning about the ways that society is informed, shaped, and impacted by race, bias, and discrimination. This necessary examination is part of our healing, our learning, and our commitment to social justice and success for our communities and for our students.

In Solidarity,  
CSSO 2023-2024 Executive Board