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For Immediate Release:

Los Rios Community College District, Sacramento State awarded \$2 million in new collaborative to increase completion rates

Align Capital Region selected to facilitate joint venture

Sacramento, CA- The Committee on Awards for Innovation in Higher Education recently announced that Los Rios Community College District (LRCCD), in partnership with Sacramento State, was awarded \$2 million to develop a new collaborative to increase student completion rates between community college and their pursuit of a four-year degree. Through this partnership, Los Rios and Sacramento State will work together on new student-focused technologies and curriculum, as well as alignment in student counseling. Align Capital Region was selected to facilitate this joint venture between LRCCD and Sacramento State.

As a result of this award, LRCCD will invest in new student scheduling and success software that can interface with existing software at Sacramento State to provide a pilot cohort of students with better and more timely information to inform their educational planning. With this tool in place, students will be able to clearly see the impact of changes to their plan, beginning at the time of their enrollment in a Los Rios College and continuing to, and through, their successful completion of a Bachelor's degree at Sacramento State.

The funds will also support a new online portal for Align Capital Region to facilitate data sharing between the business community and educational institutions like Los Rios, Sacramento State and local K-12 districts.

Los Rios Community College District was one of 14 California Community Colleges to receive an award, which stems from a \$25 million state award for developing innovative programs to increase completion rates, reduce the amount of time it takes to complete a degree and make college more affordable.

“This collaborative approach across multiple institutions represents a new way of doing business in the Sacramento region—when we have a solution that can work beyond our community colleges’ campuses, we want to bring others in to share in that success,” said Brian King, Chancellor of the Los Rios Community College District.

“I am proud of the partnership with Los Rios and Align Capital Region that has enabled us to get this vital grant. Our region’s college students will benefit from this collective approach,” said Robert S. Nelsen, President of Sacramento State.

Facilitating this joint venture is Align Capital Region, a new collective impact organization that brings together resources to achieve greater outcomes in education, workforce development, and community vitality in the eight county Capital region.

“This collaborative is a perfect example of how we are better working together,” said Brian Bedford, CEO of Align Capital Region. “By aligning and leveraging shared resources, the Los Rios Community College District and Sacramento State will achieve their mutual student success goals,” he continued.

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