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“School Opportunity Indicators” link racial disparities in college going to disparities in California high schools

UC ACCORD unveils “College Opportunities Ratio.” On February 19, in Sacramento, the University of California’s All Campus Consortium on Research for Diversity (UC ACCORD) will release new statistical indicators that show substantial racial inequity in the state’s public high schools. These indicators allow Californians to track inequalities in schooling outcomes in relation to factors such as the rate of uncertified teachers in high schools. **“The patterns of inequality are stark,”** says UC ACCORD Director, Dr. Jeannie Oakes. **“These indicators should prompt policymakers to consider more than the API when making important decisions about California’s schools.”**

Featured will be the **“College Opportunity Ratio” (COR)**--a new indicator of each high school’s success at preparing college-hopeful ninth graders to become college-ready graduates. **The COR from African American, American Indian and Latino students for each high school in the state is presented on GIS maps** that are organized by state Assembly and Senate districts. The maps show each high school’s COR in the context of the average household income of the high school’s community (see sample attached). “The COR allows legislators and school officials to see a ratio between students who started 9th grade in 1996 and those who graduated four years later prepared for a four-year college”, states Dr. Julie Mendoza, Co-Director of the Opportunity Indicators Project. She adds, **“When you look at the decline across the entire state, you see doors to the future closed to to these young people.”**

Along with the COR maps, ACCORD is releasing Data Tables that will allow Legislators to compare their high schools’ performance to other Legislative districts on the following indicators:

- Chances of being taught by an uncertified teacher
- Underrepresented students’ chances of being taught by an uncertified teacher in comparison to White and Asian American students’ chances.
- % of students taking advanced mathematics courses
- % of students taking college entrance exams (PSAT & SAT)
- UC Eligibility rates

Co-Director David Silver explains, **“These indicators help us locate and understand the root causes of college inequality in California.”**

The briefing will be held on **Wednesday, February 19 from 4pm to 6pm in Senate Room 4203 in the Capitol.** For further information or inquiries on Monday and Tuesday, please contact Michelle Renée or Jeannie Oakes at ucaccord@ucla.edu or 310-267-4412. On Wednesday, you can call 310-770-7770.