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December 2020

A graphic with a green banner that says "HAPPY" in white, and the word "HOLIDAYS" in large white letters below it. The background is a blurred image of green trees with white snowflakes falling.

Goodbye 2020, Hello 2021!

2020 has brought into sharp focus the racial inequities that start before birth and progress throughout one's lifetime, especially in communities of color. Many of these inequities existed before COVID-19, yet this year made it clear that there is still more we can and need to do. We have hope and remain optimistic that in 2021 we will emerge stronger together.

Each of our institutions has a unique opportunity to be better than before and change our collective course. Here's to a 2021 where we chart a brighter, more equitable future for our students and workforce.

2020 Successes

This year, each of the Compact partner organizations stepped up to support students and workers navigate the multiple hardships caused by COVID-19. Despite the many challenges, L.A. Compact partners also accomplished a lot together. As the year comes to a close, we want to celebrate our collective accomplishments and share with you some previews of what's to come in 2021.

The L.A. County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to maintain an investment of **\$20.7 million**, and the L.A. City Council invested **\$10 million** more in youth work experience programs, despite budget shortfalls caused by the economic recession. Together these investments will allow **14,500 young adults** to participate in a paid work experience this fiscal year, thanks to joint advocacy efforts by the L.A. Workforce Systems Collaborative and L.A. Opportunity Youth Collaborative Young Leaders.



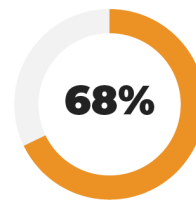
With an L.A. County unemployment rate of 21.1 percent at the height of the pandemic, the L.A. Workforce System Collaborative partners implemented a joint outreach campaign to help Angelenos file for unemployment and other financial assistance programs.

CSUN Connections helped:

52 students claim an AA degree

74 students actively work on reapplying

CSUN Connections, a program designed to re-engage stopped out students and create a pathway.



L.A. Opportunity Youth Collaborative's Foster Youth College Advancement Project partners

collaborated to achieve 68 percent financial aid application completion among high school seniors in the foster care system in the 2019-2020 school year, a 35-point increase from 2017-2018.



866

Foster youth placed in subsidized work experiences

L.A. Opportunity Youth Collaborative's Foster Youth at Work partners celebrated the placement of 866 transition-age foster youth in subsidized work experiences across L.A. County this year, an 18 percent increase from FY 2018-19. Stay tuned for a comprehensive impact report from the OYC in January!

The L.A. Compact Student Success Workgroup collaborated with **16 community colleges and four CSUs** to complete our multi-year study on the effectiveness of the Associate Degree for Transfer in the Los Angeles region, which will inform campus-based strategies to improve transfer pathways in 2021.

toward an associate degree and an eventual bachelor's degree, has helped 52 students claim an AA degree. 74 students are actively working with counselors to reapply and many more students are in the initial stages.

As California faced a \$54.3 billion budget shortfall, the L.A. Workforce Systems Collaborative also jointly **advocated to prevent budget cuts to career education programs** offered at local community colleges, such as the Strong Workforce Program.



30,000 LAUSD graduates in the Class of 2020 received the L.A. Compact's Summer Checklist for graduating seniors and information on how to get a free or low-cost laptop after graduating to continue their education.



17 L.A. Unified schools completed their first year of the district's Community School pilot, while pivoting to meet student and family needs during COVID-19. Planning is underway for the selection of 13 additional community schools.



The L.A. Educator Pathways Partnership (LAEPP) Policy Advisory Group became the 18th Compact workgroup. It's a spin-off of the LAEPP—a longstanding data sharing and research collaboration between L.A. Unified and the region's primary teacher training programs.



Let's Go to College Los Angeles launched as the regional arm of the statewide campaign, supporting historically underserved students in the L.A. region on their journey to pursue higher education through workshops, a student-centered social media campaign, and connections to local resources.

More than 200 high school students signed up for COVID College Connect, a partnership between L.A. City Mayor Eric Garcetti and the L.A. Compact to help graduating seniors navigate their college options and answer enrollment concerns as the pandemic unfolded.



Long Beach Unified became the ninth school district in the county to implement the Early Development Instrument (EDI), a tool that measures early childhood well-being and readiness for kindergarten.



Through a partnership with Hire LA's Youth and L.A. College Promise Works, 14 L.A. area community college and CSU students were hired as Let's Go to College LA Student Ambassadors, sharing their own tips for navigating college during COVID.

The L.A. College Promise

5,000+ students enrolled this fall

20,000+ students enrolled since 2017

More than 5,000 students enrolled in the L.A. College Promise this fall, and those who didn't can now enroll in January as part of a new Spring Start program. To date, more than 20,000 students have enrolled in the L.A. College Promise since the start of the program in 2017.

With this, we close the chapter on 2020 and welcome in the new year with a renewed sense of hope for a brighter future ahead.

We also want to extend our sincere appreciation to all of our L.A. Compact members and convening partners. Without you none of this work would be possible.

From our family to yours, be safe, stay well and happy holidays!



The L.A. Compact is convened primarily by UNITE-LA. Select workgroups are convened by other partner agencies.



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