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– California community colleges conferred a record number of degrees and certificates in the most recent academic year as enrollment and course offerings throughout the 112-college system increased for the first time since the Great Recession hit six years ago, according to figures released by the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office.

The college system also saw completion rates for remedial math, English and English as a Second Language trend upward, and success rates for credit courses continued to rise, according the 2014 State of the System Report that was presented to the Board of Governors on Tuesday.

“The California Community Colleges is rebounding from the budget cuts that forced us to ration education,” said California Community Colleges Chancellor Brice W. Harris. “We are expanding course offerings and enrolling more students. As our Student Success Initiative takes hold we are seeing more students earn certificates and degrees and transferring to four-year institutions. Though we still have much more work to do, we are on the right path.”

The system suffered a 22 percent drop in the number of students served between 2008-09 and 2012-13, a loss of nearly 600,000 students because of the Great Recession and the steep funding cuts it caused.

The annual report gives a comprehensive overview of the system’s undertakings in the 2013-14 academic year, progress it has made in a variety of areas and provides statistical information regarding enrollments, funding, total awards conferred and more.

The report is part of the Student Success Scorecard, an accountability framework that is a cornerstone of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors Student Success Initiative.

Some findings highlighted in the report:

- Community colleges awarded 190,314 certificates and degrees in 2013-14, a 40 percent increase from 2009-10, and an all-time high for the system.
- Total enrollment edged upward by 15,351 students after four years of stunning declines: Enrollment in 2013-14 stood at 2,094,910.
- Some 11,839 Associate in Arts for Transfer and Associate in Science for Transfer degrees, which guarantee students admission to California State University, were conferred in 2013-14, double the figure from the

