

Project Title: **Pathway to Law School Initiative**

Project Lead: Dr. Justin Smiley, Dean, Arts, Media & Business Administration

Performance Period: January 1st, 2023 – October 31st, 2024; Award amount: \$99,000

Funding Source: California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, Workforce and Economic Development Division

Project Goal: Create a diverse pipeline of students into law or law-related professions, ensuring that California's legal field mirrors the state's diverse population.



Goals and Achievements

- Offered all Law ADT courses annually, with faculty completing professional development to better support high school engagement.
- Created new pathways, including the Law, Public Policy & Society AA-T to CSU San Marcos and a formalized high school law pathway.
- Met all grant goals, including launching the Pathway to Law Certificate of Achievement.



Student Impact

- Offered flexible online courses to help dual and concurrent enrollment students balance high school and college commitments.
- Enrolled 24 high school students in Intro to Law through dual enrollment, expanding access for historically underserved, first-generation, and low-income students.
- Engaged 384 students in Cal LAW events - exceeding the target of 293 and strengthening early exposure to legal careers.



Partnerships & Collaborations

- Partnered with TRIO SSS, Puente, Upward Bound, and Umoja to deliver student programs, including panels, workshops, and law school and court tours.
- Collaborated with the North County Superior Court and National Association of Women Judges to promote mentoring opportunities in the legal field.
- Expanded and strengthened dual enrollment by partnering with local high schools, counselors, and district leadership.



Institutional and Community Impact

- Enhanced institutional capacity by integrating flexible course delivery, improving access, and minimizing scheduling issues for dual enrollment students.
- Launched the Pathway to Law Certificate of Achievement, paving the way for program growth.
- Strengthened community impact through targeted outreach and sustainable partnerships, supported by strategic communications and events.



What's Next?

Moving forward, the project will continue to strengthen dual enrollment partnerships with high schools while closely monitoring enrollment, completion, and transfer outcomes in ADT courses. This includes tracking student demographics and course success to evaluate the effectiveness of institutional partnerships. Efforts will also focus on expanding the Pathway to Law Certificate of Achievement to include students from related majors such as Political Science and Administration of Justice, supporting the program's continued growth and long-term sustainability.