A Recap of the 2018 Strengthening Student Success Conference:
It Was All About Our Students

SAN RAFAEL, CA, October 30, 2018 – The RP Group, a research and education-focused non-profit, today announced post-conference statistics and highlights of its recent 13th Annual 2018 SSSC, “Making our Colleges Student-Ready,” held October 3-5th in Garden Grove, CA.

This year’s theme helped educators and researchers alike to think about what it means for colleges to be prepared for students. The conference sessions and keynote speakers explored many questions related to the theme such as, “How do we welcome our students?” and “How do we help them move along their educational journey in a timely manner?”.

The conference also focused on the issue of equity: understanding and addressing the strengths and the needs of our diverse populations of students. This year, a significant number of colleges presented on their Guided Pathways efforts and implementation of AB 705. The number of colleges sending teams, as noted below, emphasizes that professional learning is a collective endeavor. Some firsts and highlights of the event include:

- 957 total attendees, our biggest conference to date
- 91 colleges and districts in attendance
- Five colleges with teams of 20-31 practitioners and researchers in attendance
- 15 colleges with teams of 12-19 practitioners and researchers, in attendance
- Approximately 25 students co-presenting in eight sessions, more students in attendance this year than in years past, and the first student keynote speaker in the conference’s history.

The Strengthening Student Success Conference provides a unique opportunity for a wide cross-section of California Community College faculty, administrators, researchers, student services professionals, and students to engage each other on strategies for building institutional effectiveness, supporting student learning, and increasing equitable outcomes.

The conference, presented by the RP Group in partnership with 3CSN, Career Ladders Project, and LearningWorks, has been designed to promote interactive learning, build connections, and provide opportunities to hear perspectives from other disciplines. It is about practice, student success, and shared professional learning.

Mission Statement
Through professional and leadership development, technical assistance, research, and evaluation services, the RP Group strengthens the ability of California Community Colleges to discover and undertake high quality research, planning, and assessments that improve evidence-based decision-making, institutional effectiveness, and success for all students.

About the RP Group
The RP Group is a non-profit, membership-driven organization that striving to build a community college culture that views planning, evidence-based decision-making, and institutional effectiveness as integral, collaborative strategies. The organization aims to promote student success, increase equitable outcomes, improve college operations, and inform policymakers. Go to www.rpgroup.org for more information.

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