



PATHWAY CHAMPIONS

A Spotlight on Colleges Building Seamless Paths to Success:
LOS ANGELES HARBOR COLLEGE

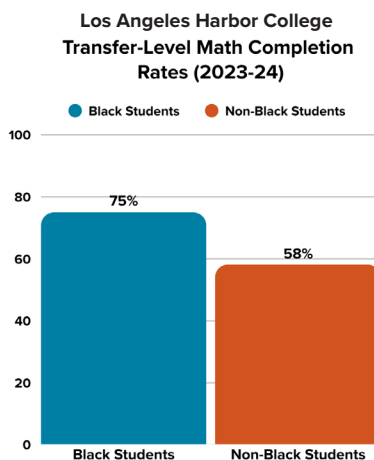


INTRODUCTION

The Campaign for College Opportunity is proud to spotlight Los Angeles Harbor College as a **2025 Pathway Champion of Placement Equity** for their efforts in advancing Black student success in transfer-level math courses. This recognition reflects the Campaign’s mission to ensure equitable placement and completion policies deliver on their promise of expanding access to transfer-level coursework and closing racial equity gaps. **AB 705 and AB 1705** are landmark policies requiring colleges to use multiple measures for placement and granting students direct access to transfer-level math and English courses that give them the best chance of completing a bachelor’s degree. By ending outdated remedial policies and investing in student-centered supports, LA Harbor College has advanced this mission by ensuring that more Black students enroll and succeed in transfer-level math during their first year.

Their achievements demonstrate how aligning policy reform with institutional commitment to equity can transform outcomes and reflect the evidence-based practices highlighted in the Campaign’s [Equity, Inclusion and Action \(EIA\) publication series](#).

WHY THIS COLLEGE



LA Harbor College stands out for its intentional, community-driven approach to math placement and student support. In the 2023-24 academic year, Black students at LA Harbor achieved a 75% success rate in transfer-level math, 17 percentage points higher than peers of other racial/ethnic groups. These outcomes reflect the college’s commitment to culturally responsive learning environments that foster belonging, resilience, and academic confidence. Located in the South Bay region of Los Angeles, LA Harbor College serves as a model for metropolitan campuses seeking to close equity gaps and build inclusive pathways to transfer and degree completion.

BEST PRACTICES

LA Harbor College’s success is not the product of a single program, but of a holistic ecosystem of student-focused care sustained by faculty, counselors, and community partners.

Umoja Community Math Support Course & Group: In response to students delaying their math completion, the Umoja community launched an asynchronous, Umoja-supported statistics course led by counselor Brittany Gray and math instructor Zahra Romer. The course supports students through flexible access to course materials, step-by-step instructional videos, and in-person support sessions at the Umoja program space. The in-person gatherings help students overcome math anxiety, ground them in a history of African contributions to mathematics, and foster a sense of community and confidence.

Equity Village: To centralize critical student supports for students, LA Harbor College established the Equity Village in 2019. The Equity Village consists of various centers that provide culturally relevant and other student-centered support services, such as Umoja, the Dream Resource Center, and the Veteran Center. The goal of the Equity Village is to provide comprehensive and tailored supports to students to ensure their success throughout their time at LA Harbor.

A2MEND Community Gatherings: Through partnerships with the African American Male Education Network & Development (A2MEND), LA Harbor College hosts gatherings that connect students with Black faculty and staff, foster mentorship, and build life skills, such as financial literacy. This mentorship and these skill-building events affirm identity and strengthen bonds that contribute to student persistence and success.

CONCLUSION

The critical work being done at LA Harbor College to support Black student success reflects our recommendations in [Ensuring College Access and Success for Black Students in Higher Education](#) and [Advancing Equity with Effective Community College Transfer Pathways](#) from the Campaign's EIA publication series. To best support Black students throughout the state, our community colleges must ensure that they provide holistic, culturally relevant supports, and foster a sense of belonging on campus. Through LA Harbor's unwavering commitment to developing, elevating, and serving Black students with targeted supports in a centralized space, they embody equity, inclusion, and action in practice.

LA Harbor has cultivated practices that translate a philosophy of care into measurable outcomes by engaging faculty, staff, and counselors in shared ownership for student success. Their leadership demonstrates how policy reforms like equitable placement and completion can achieve their intended impact when paired with institutional commitment to equity. The Campaign for College Opportunity proudly celebrates LA Harbor College as a model for advancing racial equity in higher education.

Acknowledgments:

Thank you to Dr. Luis Dorado, President of LA Harbor College, and his team for sharing the important work underway at Los Angeles Harbor College.

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This award is more than a recognition. It's a celebration of the deep commitment and passionate work of our Equity Village. At Los Angeles Harbor College, we don't just believe in the brilliance of our Black Student Scholars, we walk alongside them, uplift them, and invest in their success every step of the way. I'm proud to stand alongside Umoja, A2MEND, EOPS, our Counseling and Math Departments, and so many others. Together, we create spaces where our Black Student Scholars don't just succeed, they rise, excel, and they lead!

—Dr. Luis Dorado, *President*
Los Angeles Harbor College

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