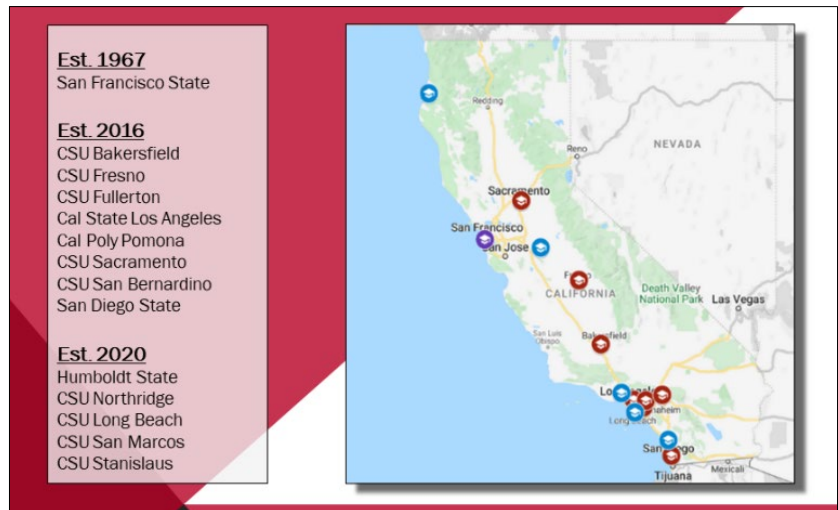


POLICY BACKGROUND

California currently leads the country in equitable access to higher education for currently and formerly incarcerated people. **Senate Bill 1391** (Hancock, 2014), which permits California Community Colleges to collect state apportionment for classes provided to incarcerated students, and **Proposition 57** (2016) which provides educational merit awards and sentence reductions to prisoners for educational and other rehabilitative achievements, have caused a momentous increase in the number of face-to-face, credit-bearing college programs in the state prison system (from 1 to 34) and the number of college students inside CDCR facilities (from 2,000 to 14,000). All of these 14,000 current students are on Associates Degree transfer pathways; for the majority, the CSU is the logical next step in their educational and rehabilitative journey. Given that the number of people in CDCR custody with a verified high school diploma or GED has increased from 22,000 to 50,000 since 2015, the demand upon public postsecondary education segments is expected to increase. **Senate Bill 118** (2020) banned the box in higher education, opening the door to equitable access by prohibiting California postsecondary educational institutions from inquiring about a prospective student’s criminal history during the admissions process. **Senate Bill 416** (Hueso, 2021) required that CDCR only grant access to college programs provided by public and non-profit colleges and universities and placed a statutory priority on college programs that coordinate with the CSU Project Rebound Consortium and other postsecondary programs specifically serving formerly incarcerated students so that incarcerated students who are paroled receive support to continue building toward a degree or credential postrelease.

BACKGROUND ON PROJECT REBOUND

Originally founded in 1967 at San Francisco State University, Project Rebound is a CSU program designed to support the higher education and successful reintegration of formerly incarcerated Californians. Following a three-year, philanthropically-funded expansion effort (2016-19), California made an ongoing investment of \$3.3 million in the CSU Project Rebound Consortium in 2019—augmented to \$11.3 million ongoing in 2022—to grow and further expand this successful program across the state. Since 2016, Project Rebound has conferred nearly 750 Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees to formerly incarcerated students and maintained a less than one percent recidivism rate. Project Rebound has established California as a national model by leveraging the largest four-year university system in the country to scale a life-affirming, cost-effective response to the extensive impacts of mass incarceration.



Project Rebound is at the forefront of advancing the CSU’s objective to close the equity gap for under-represented minority and low-income students. The majority of Rebound Scholars come from historically marginalized and underserved populations. 66% of Rebound Scholars are Pell Grant recipients, compared to 43% in the general CSU student body. The majority (70%) of Rebound Scholars are Black (28%), Latinx (42%), or Native American (10%). The proportion of Rebound Scholars that identify as Black/African American or

Native American is five times greater than that of the CSU student body overall. In addition, most Project Rebound students (65%) are also first-generation college students; 38% are parents of minor children. Many Rebound Scholars had their educational journeys as youths disrupted by the foster care system (12%) and/or the juvenile justice system (36%).

PROGRESS DUE TO STATE SUPPORT

After three years of State investment, two of which were under pandemic conditions, the CSU Project Rebound Consortium has expanded from 9 campus programs to 15 campus programs, it has nearly tripled enrollment (from 306 students to 836 students), quadrupled the number of annual graduates by (from 61 graduates in the Class of 2019 to an expected 247 graduates in the Class of 2023), and maintained a less than one percent recidivism rate. Project Rebound enrollment has grown at this rate even though the CSU systemwide has experienced a drop in enrollment to the lowest levels since Fall 2015. And while the equity gap for underrepresented minority and low-income students across the CSU has increased from 9.2% in 2020 to 12.4% in 2022, two-thirds of Project Rebound students continue to earn a 3.0 GPA or higher every semester.

Project Rebound accomplishes this by fostering a college-going culture among and building recruitment pathways for currently and formerly incarcerated people, helping prospective students prepare, apply, and matriculate, supporting enrolled students to persist and graduate, supporting enrolled students to participate in student life and leadership, community service, and civic engagement, and establishing and fostering empowering networks among Project Rebound alumni and students. Meaningful employment is also a major contributor to student success and reduced recidivism. With an increase in dedicated staff, and thus supervisory capacity, Project Rebound has increased student employment by 843% and internship placements by 60%. As most of these student employees are part of the Federal Work Study program, Project Rebound leverages state investment to secure additional federal support for formerly incarcerated student workforce development. Project Rebound has also built a liaison network with the Department of Rehabilitation, which helped 341 students in 2022 secure federal resources for supports such as tuition and academic technology.

Project Rebound’s Progress Due to State Support		
Metric	2019	2022
Campus Programs	9	15 <i>(+66%)</i>
Students Enrolled	306	836 <i>(+173%)</i>
Students Enrolled in Graduate Programs	29	119 <i>(+310%)</i>
Graduating Class Size	61	247 <i>(+304%)</i>
Fulltime Equivalent Staff (Nearly all Formerly Incarcerated)	12	37 <i>(+208%)</i>
Students Employed	14	132 <i>(+843%)</i>
Students Placed in Internships	41	66 <i>(+60%)</i>
Percentage of Students in Good Academic Standing	79%	83% <i>(+4%)</i>
Students Received Certificates of Rehabilitation or Pardons	-	14
Students Connected to Department of Rehabilitation Resources	-	341
Students Completed Criminal Record Expungements	-	44
Students that Identify as Black, Latinx, or Native	63%	62%
Pell Grant Recipients	-	66%
First-Generation Students	-	65%
Parents of Minor Children	-	38%
Recidivism Rate	0%	< 1%

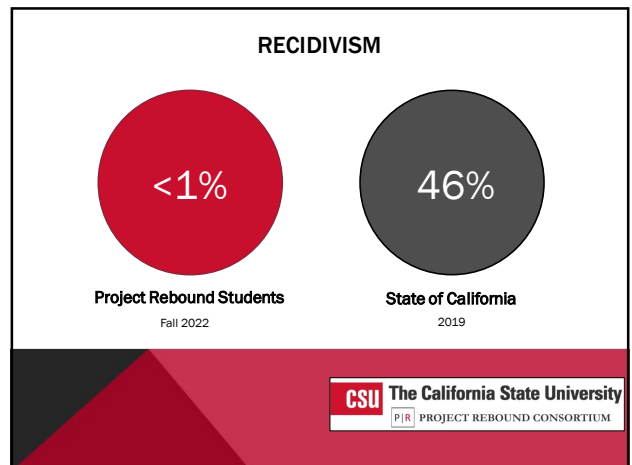
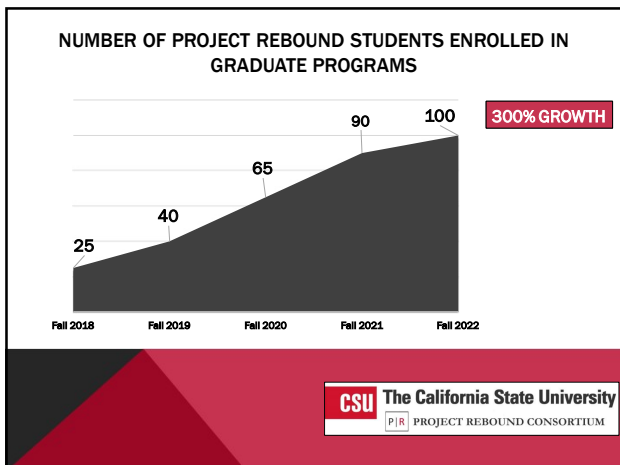
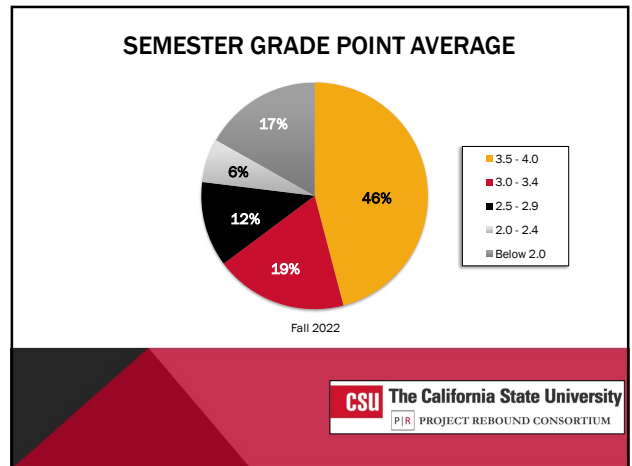
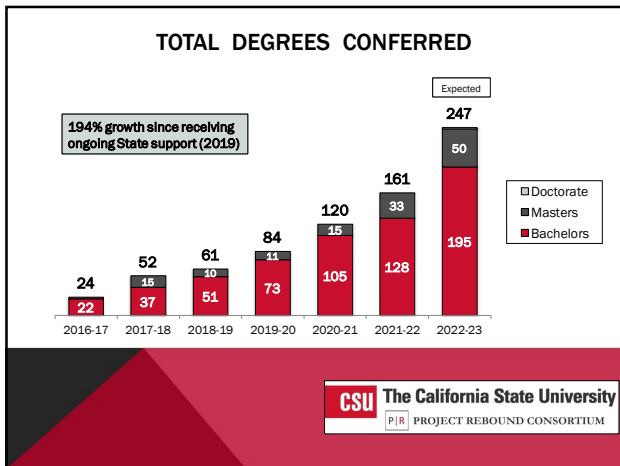
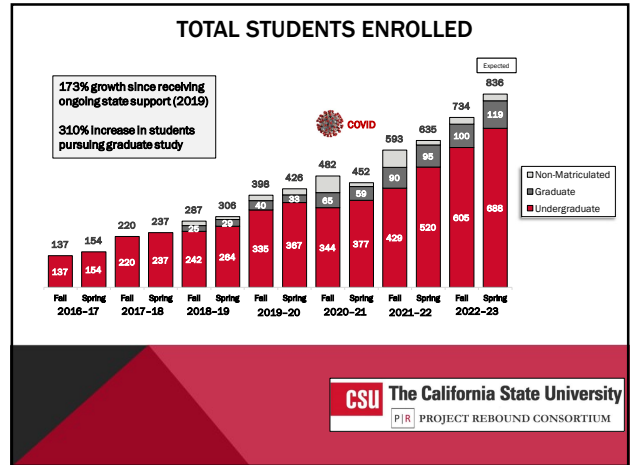
Est. 1967
San Francisco State

Est. 1916
CSU Bakersfield
CSU Fresno
CSU Fullerton
Cal State Los Angeles
Cal Poly Pomona
CSU Sacramento
CSU San Bernardino
San Diego State

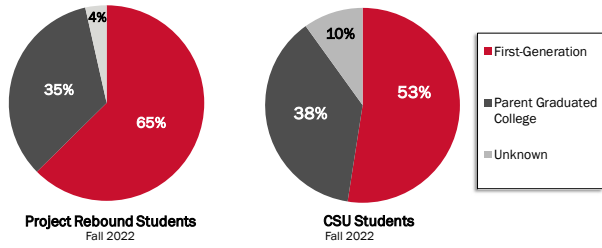
Est. 2020
Humboldt State
CSU Northridge
CSU Long Beach
CSU San Marcos
CSU Stanislaus

Est. 2022
CSU East Bay

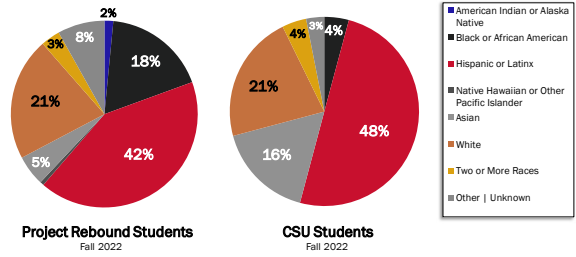
CSU The California State University
PIR PROJECT REBOUND CONSORTIUM



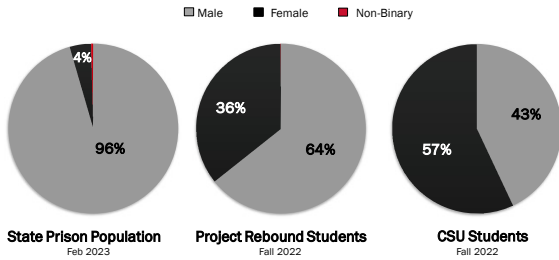
FIRST-GENERATION



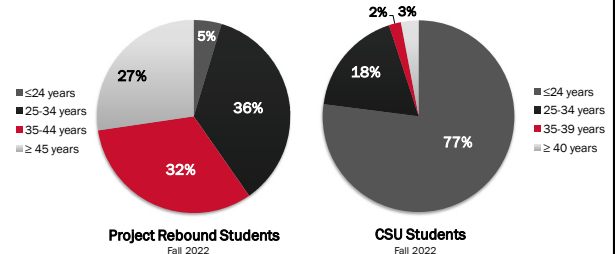
RACE/ETHNICITY



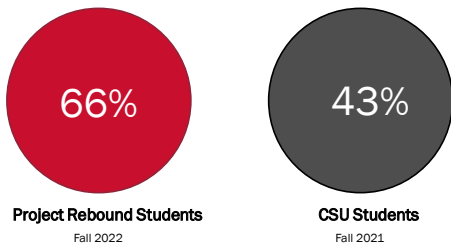
GENDER



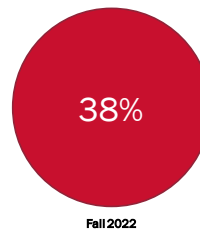
AGE



PELL GRANT RECIPIENTS

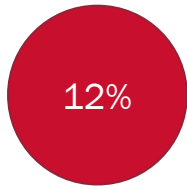


PARENTS OF MINOR CHILDREN

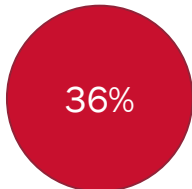


Project Rebound breaks *intergenerational* cycles of poverty, undereducation, homelessness, addiction, and incarceration, thus fostering a safer, healthier, and more prosperous future for California.

PRIOR FOSTER CARE SYSTEM AND JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT

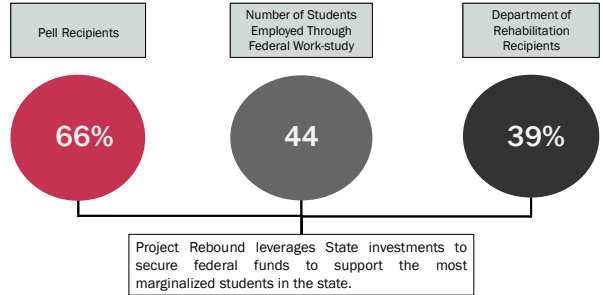


Foster Care System Involvement
Fall 2022



Juvenile Justice System Involvement
Fall 2022

SECURING FEDERAL RESOURCES



PROVIDING INSPIRATION AND ADVISING TO CURRENTLY INCARCERATED PEOPLE

