

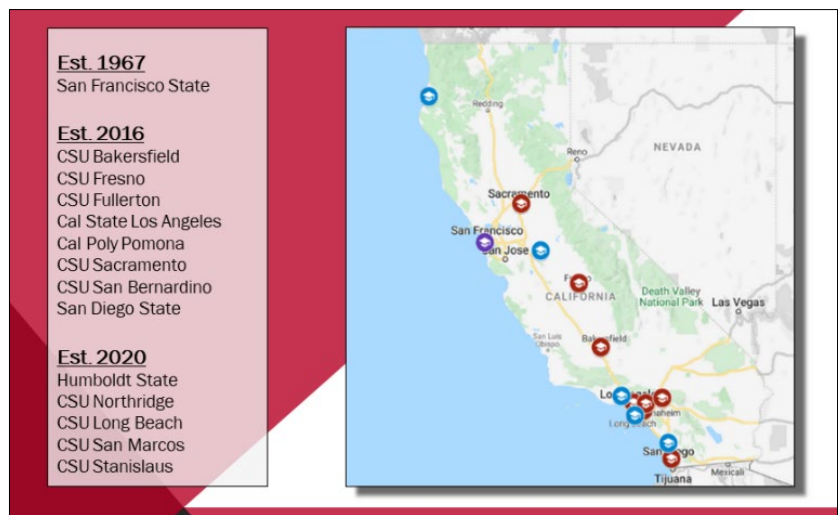
## POLICY BACKGROUND

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. In 2019, 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 to grow and further expand this successful program across the state. Since 2016, Project Rebound has conferred nearly 500 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 underrepresented minority and low-income students. The majority of Rebound Scholars come from historically marginalized and underserved populations. 74% of Rebound Scholars are Pell Grant



recipients, compared to 44% in the general CSU student body. The majority (61%) of Rebound Scholars are Black (21%), Latinx (37%), or Native (3%). The proportion of Rebound Scholars that identify as Black/African American or Native American is six times greater than that of the CSU student body overall. In addition, most Project Rebound students (61%) are also first-generation college students; 34% are parents of minor children.

## PROJECT REBOUND'S PROGRESS DUE TO STATE SUPPORT

Due to the State's investment, after just two years and under pandemic conditions, the CSU Project Rebound Consortium has expanded from 9 campus programs to 14 campus programs, it has doubled enrollment (from 306 students to 566 students), increased the number of annual graduates by 151% (from 61 graduates to 151 graduates), 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 Pell-recipient students across the CSU has increased during the pandemic, 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 350% and internship placements by 120%. 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 has helped over 150 students secure federal resources for supports such as tuition and academic technology.

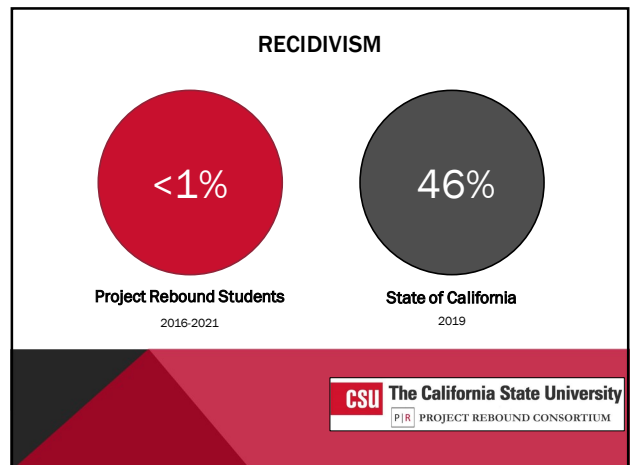
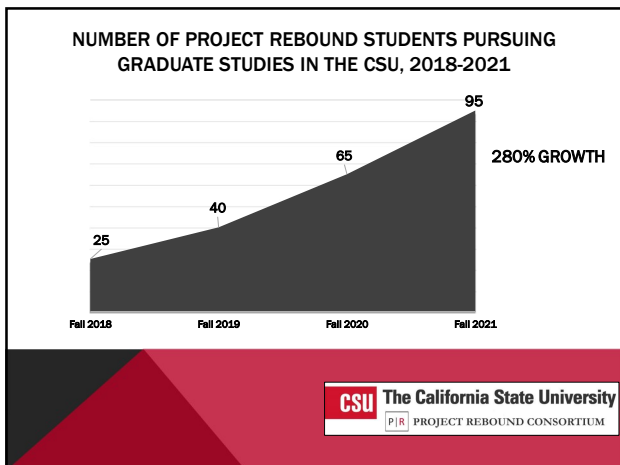
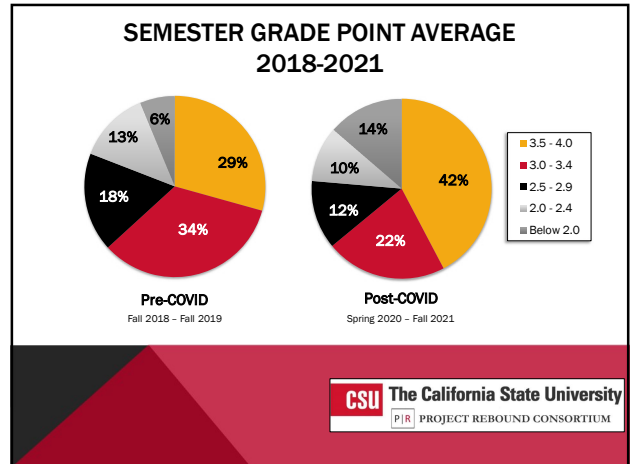
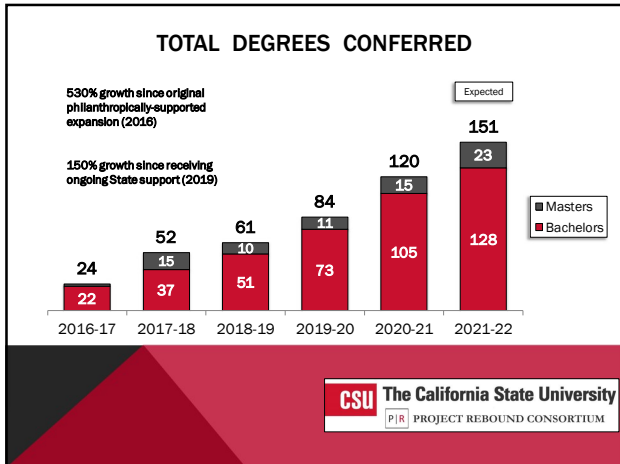
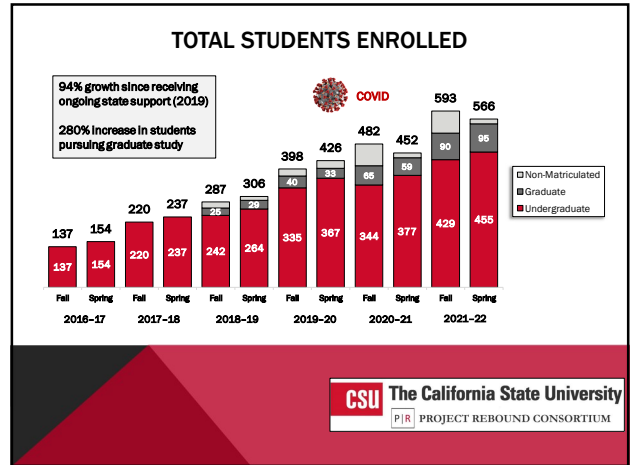
	2019	2021
Campus Programs	9	<b>14</b> (+55%)
Students Enrolled	306	<b>566</b> (+94%)
Students Enrolled in Graduate Programs	29	<b>95</b> (+280%)
Graduating Class Size	61	<b>151</b> (+150%)
Fulltime Equivalent Staff (Nearly all Formerly Incarcerated)	12	<b>27</b> (+125%)
Students Employed (Federal Work Study)	14	<b>63</b> (+350%)
Students Placed in Internships	41	<b>90</b> (+120%)
Students Connected to Department of Rehabilitation Resources	-	<b>150</b>
Students Earning Above a 3.0 GPA	60%	<b>64%</b>
Students that Identify as Black, Latinx, or Native	63%	<b>61%</b>
Pell Grant Recipients	-	<b>74%</b>
First-Generation Students	-	<b>61%</b>
Parents of Minor Children	-	<b>34%</b>
Recidivism Rate	0%	<b>&lt; 1%</b>

**Est. 1967**  
San Francisco State

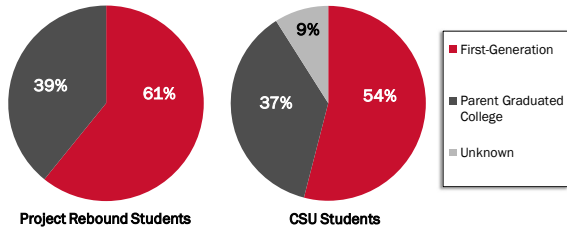
**Est. 2016**  
CSU Bakersfield  
CSU Fresno  
CSU Fullerton  
Cal State Los Angeles  
Cal Poly Pomona  
CSU Sacramento  
CSU San Bernardino  
San Diego State

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

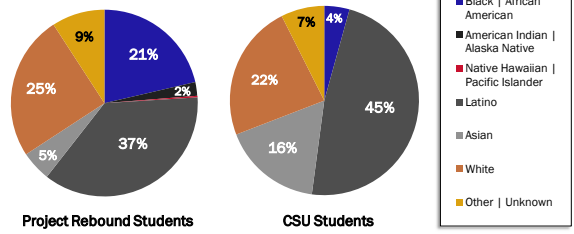
**CSU The California State University**  
PIR PROJECT REBOUND CONSORTIUM



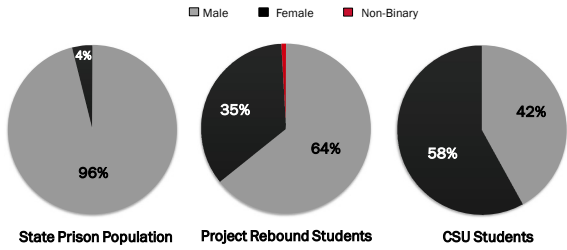
### FIRST-GENERATION



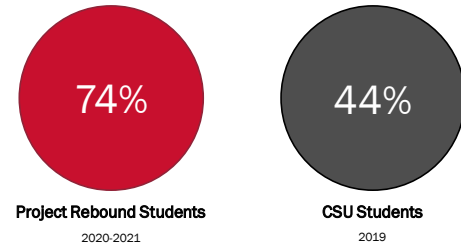
### RACE/ETHNICITY



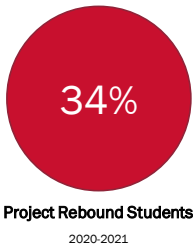
### GENDER



### 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.

### OUTREACH & RECRUITMENT

