# Contents

**Acknowledgments**

1 **Introduction**
  - Why These Research Questions? 4
  - Why Study Data for California? 8
  - Organization of the Study 11

2 **Development of the California Community College System** 15
  - The 1960 *Master Plan* 15
  - Organization of the CCCS 18
  - Funding the CCCS 20
  - Apportionment of Funds and Accountability 20
  - The CCCS Today 22

3 **Studies of the Effect of Community Colleges on Educational Attainment** 25
  - Determinants of Latino and Asian Earnings Gaps 25
  - The Effect of Community Colleges on Schooling Using National Data 30
  - The Effect of Community Colleges on Schooling Using Student Records 35
  - A Framework for Examining Community College Educational Outcomes 43

4 **Studies of Community Colleges’ Responsiveness to Changes in Employer Skill Requirements** 47
  - Effects on Labor Market Outcomes 49
  - The DoED Community College Labor Market Responsiveness Initiative 51
  - Contract Training Programs 55
  - Matching the Supply of Training with Occupational Demand Projections 57
5  Responsiveness to the Educational Needs of Immigrants by Broad Categories of Race or Ethnicity  61
First-Time-Freshmen Data and Descriptive Statistics  62
Basic Results for Community College Outcome Variables  78
Additional Results for Educational Outcomes  89
Summary  104

6  Responsiveness to the Educational Needs of Immigrants by Narrowly Defined Ethnic Categories  109
Descriptive Statistics at the Two-Digit Level of Ethnicity  110
Results for Outcome Variables Disaggregating by National Origin  116
Accounting for Unexplained Gaps for Asians  120
Summary  127

7  Community Colleges’ Responsiveness to Local Labor Market Demand  131
Approaches to Matching within the CCCS  132
Variation in the Supply of Skills  137
Variation in the Demand for Skills  146
Assessing the Quality of Skill Matches  150
Summary  168

8  Summary and Policy Implications  171
California First-Time-Freshmen Data  173
Responsiveness to Meeting the Needs of Immigrants  175
Responsiveness to Meeting the Needs of Local Employers  183
Qualifications and Opportunities for Further Research  187

Appendix A: Data Sources  191
Individual Student Data Files  191
Appending College-Level Variables  193
References  199
The Authors  205
Index  207
About the Institute  219