

HIGHER ASPIRATIONS

DIVERSITY | EQUITY | INCLUSION

SUPPORTING JUSTICE-IMPACTED
INDIVIDUALS IN SAN BENITO COUNTY



GAVILAN COLLEGE

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HIGHER ASPIRATIONS PROGRAM

MISSION, VISION, & VALUES



MISSION

We are committed to serving students who are currently and formerly incarcerated by providing career & academic pathways, social support, and basic needs services from enrollment through graduation.



EQUITY

We envision a community in which all individuals who have been impacted by the justice system have access to a quality higher education creating a more equitable and socially just world.



INCLUSION

We value: peer-to-peer connection, student-centered growth, and community building.



Higher Aspirations

MEET OUR STUDENTS

LIVED EXPERIENCES

CHALLENGES & BARRIERS



Higher Aspirations

VIOLENCE

Gang Violence
Domestic Violence
Psychological Violence
Sexual Violence
Self Violence

HEALTH

Psychiatric Conditions
Substance Use
Addiction
Learning Disabilities
Physical Disabilities

FAMILIAL / COMMUNITY

Intergenerational Poverty
Guidance in Developmental Life Stages
Intergenerational Trauma
Parental Separation
Lack of Safe Communal Spaces

INSTITUTIONAL TRAUMA

Isolation / Alienation
Social Anxiety
Depression
Post-Incarceration Syndrome
Imposter Syndrome
Distrust / Paranoia
Diminished Self-Worth

BASIC NEEDS

Housing
Healthcare
Food
Transportation
Clothing
Hygiene

SYSTEMIC

Policing Practices
Poverty
Immigration Status
School-to-Prison Pipeline
Race, Class & Gender Disparities
Laws, Policies & Implementation

MEET OUR STUDENTS

DEMOGRAPHICS OF OUR STUDENTS

SPRING 2025 = 114 STUDENTS

72% AVERAGE PERSISTENCE RATE FROM AY 2020 - 2024

HOUSING INSECURITY | LOST OF EMPLOYMENT
ECONOMIC HARDSHIP | HEALTH EMERGENCIES | CHILD CARE

74% OF STUDENTS RECEIVING SERVICES FROM 2+ SUPPORT PROGRAMS

EOPS | CARE | NEXTUP | CALWORKS | FRESH SUCCESS | AEC | MESA | VETERANS

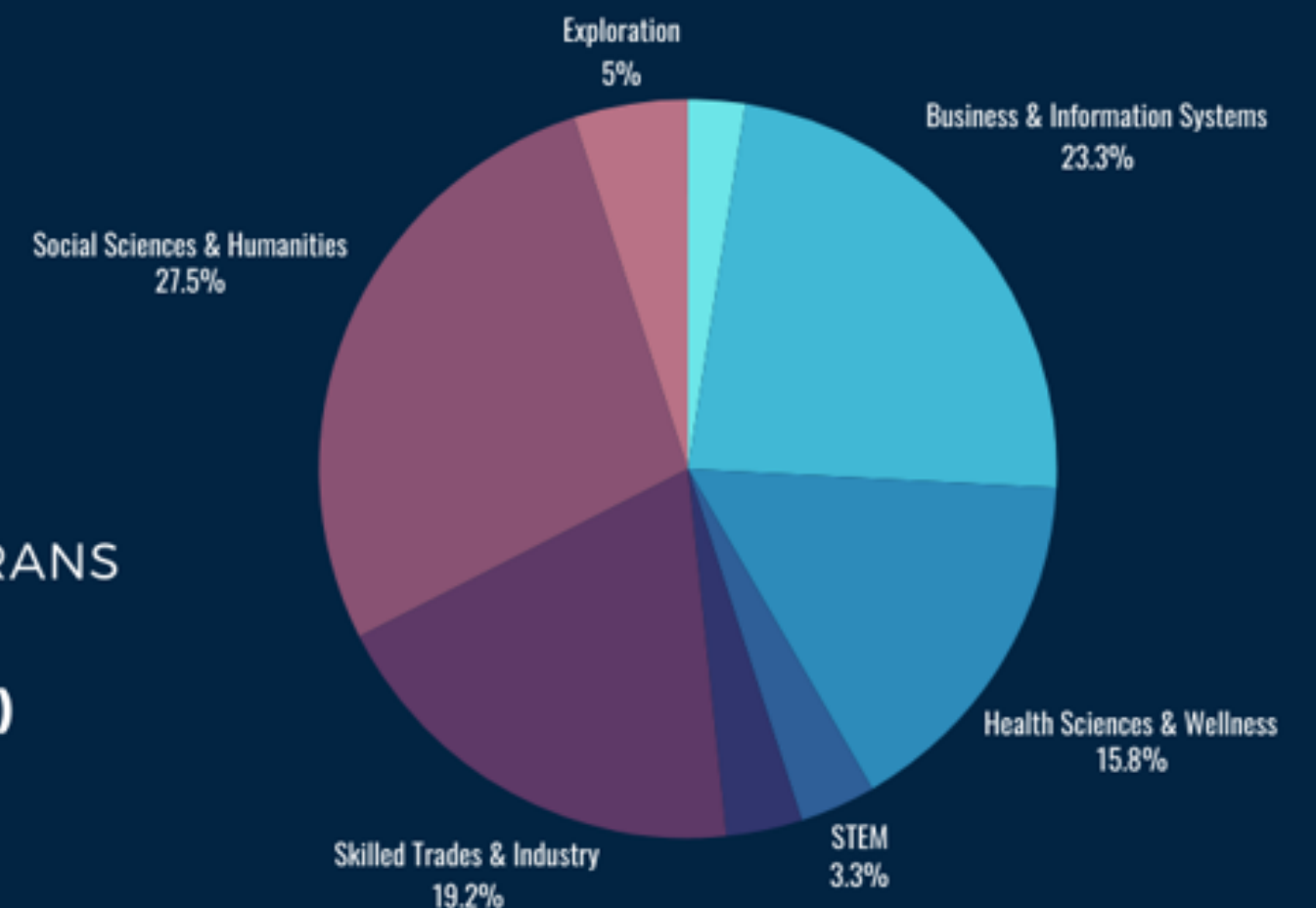
61% OF STUDENTS HAVE A GPA HIGHER THAN THE MEDIAN AVERAGE (2.5 GPA)

39% OF STUDENTS HAVE A GPA HIGHER THAN A 3.0

51 STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR TRANSFER PATHWAY

CSU MONTEREY BAY | SAN JOSE STATE | SAN FRANCISCO STATE
CAL STATE LA | CSU LONG BEACH | CSU DOMINGUEZ HILLS

CAREER & ACADEMIC PATHWAYS



SUPPORT & SERVICES

Textbook & Ancillary Support

Transportation Assistance

Individualized Counseling

Access to Basic Needs

Services

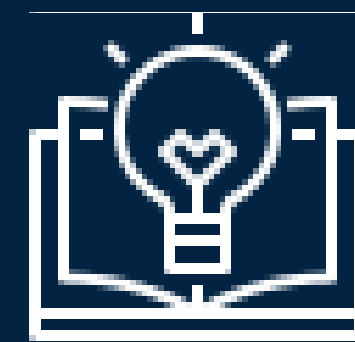
Expungement & Legal Services

Career Exploration &

Preparation

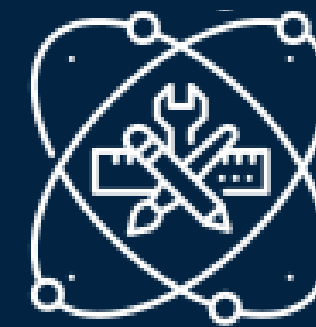
Transfer Assistance

Resource Referrals



POSITIVE
RAPPORT

+



STUDENT
ENGAGEMENT

=



BUILDING
COMMUNITY

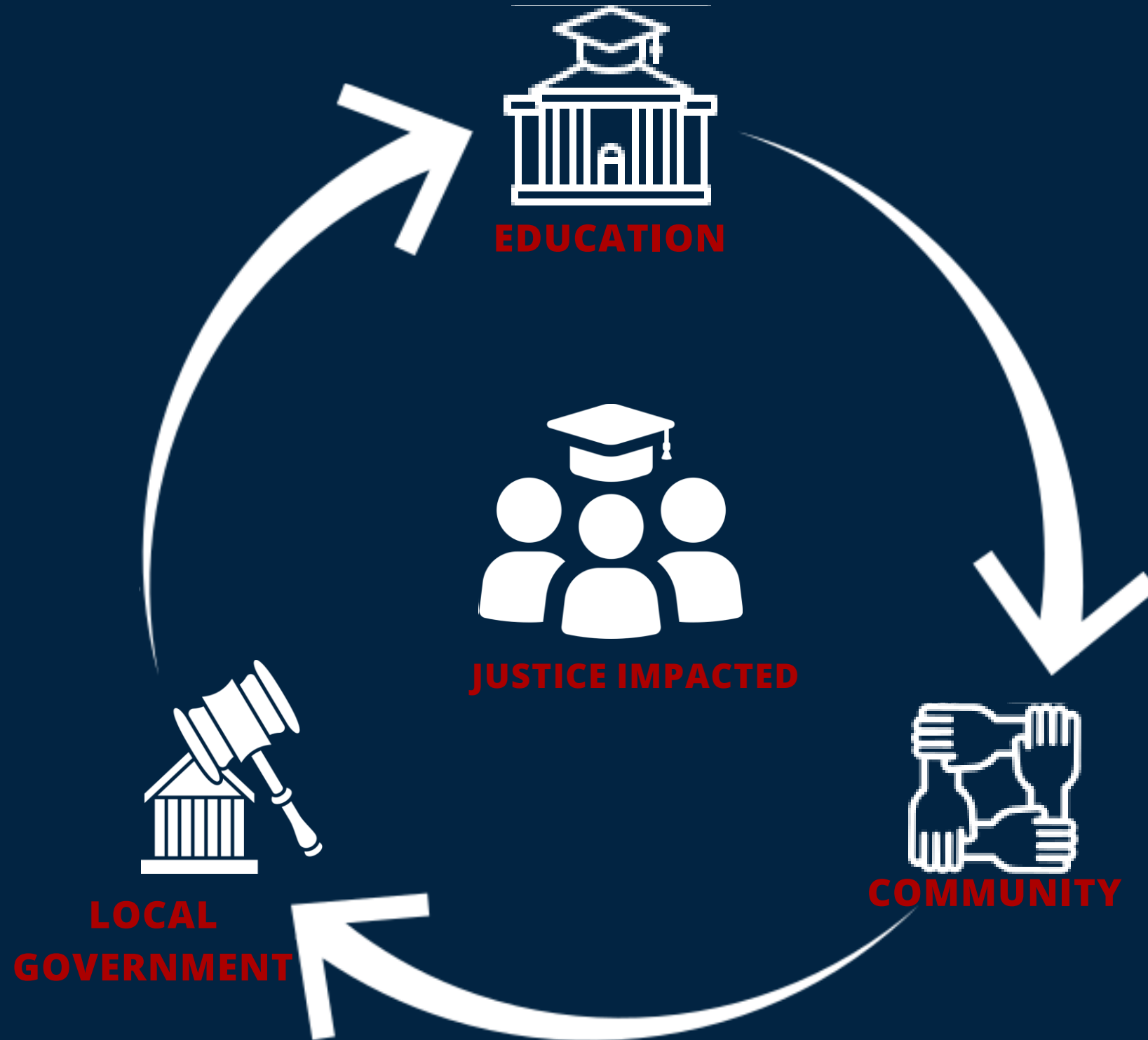


GAVILAN COLLEGE

Higher Aspirations

SAN BENITO COUNTY

VISION





GAVILAN COLLEGE

Higher Aspirations

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