



A Message from Chancellor Sonya Christian

February 22, 2025

CEO Colleagues:

On February 20 some of you received a letter from the United States Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to compel compliance with two Executive Orders signed on January 20th [Ending Radical and Wasteful DEI Programs and Preferencing](#), and [Defending Women From Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government](#). The letter seeks to prevent college and districts from using federal funding for programs and projects that use “terminology and project components” to promote a diverse and accessible federal workforce.

In the letter, BLM directs colleges that effective immediately, “all project components that conflict with” the Executive Orders must stop, and no further costs related to the conflicting project components should be incurred.

Yesterday, Kathy Lynch, our General Counsel, sent me information that might be helpful to you as you work with your legal counsel and college leadership.

On February 21st, a federal court in Maryland issued a preliminary injunction to preclude the federal government from enforcing the Executive Order that concerned “DEI programs and preferencing.” The court ruled that the order was unconstitutionally vague and violated the defendants’ rights to freedom of speech. “The preliminary injunction factors weigh in favor of issuing a preliminary injunction against the Termination Provision, the Certification Provision, and part of the Enforcement Threat Provision.” Federal agencies are enjoined from enforcing the order against anyone, including parties that did not participate in the litigation. Here is the court’s [memorandum opinion](#).

A motion is also pending to seek a preliminary injunction against enforcement of the other Executive Order, which concerns “gender ideology.” The motion appears to be based on many of the same grounds as the one discussed above. Here is AG Rob Bonta’s [press release](#) regarding that motion.

If you experience any delays in scheduled payments or receive letters from any federal agencies (the Department of Education, BLM or otherwise), please notify our office immediately. Chris Ferguson (CFerguson@cccco.edu) is collecting this information and will keep key state agencies informed.

Your leadership is critical to continuing the work to ensure all Californians have access to a higher education without barriers – one that will provide them with the skills needed to compete in our rapidly changing workforce, in high-demand fields that provide good paying career opportunities while strengthening our state’s economy.

Thnx
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