



COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

# 2017 Talking Points

January 2017

## ***Strengthen California's Economy by Investing in Community Colleges***

California Community Colleges play a critical role in lifting the state's economy, filling middle-class jobs, closing achievement gaps, and providing educational access to all Californians. *As jobs that require only high school or less have disappeared, postsecondary education and training has become the passport to the middle class.*<sup>1</sup> California's public community colleges are an invaluable investment.

### **EDUCATIONAL QUALITY**

#### **• Invest in Higher Per-Student Funding and General Operations**

Quality academic programs and services require a base augmentation. General operating funds support districts confronting rapidly growing energy, pension, and teaching costs. We must ensure the health and safety of our students. General operating resources fund innovation on campuses, and base funding is essential for the fiscal stability of our colleges.

System	Funding Amount
K-12	\$12,057
CCC	\$7,984
CSU	\$14,914
UC	\$26,162

### **GUIDED PATHWAYS**

#### **• Ensure All Colleges Have Access to Guided Pathway Resources**

Guided Pathways is an evidence-based and necessary catalyst for a systemic and integrated redesign of the student experience at California's community colleges. Guided Pathways resources will enhance and deepen the impact of SSSP and Equity programs and services.

### **PROPOSITION 98 STATUTORY SPLIT**

#### **• Give Community Colleges Their Fair Share**

The budget proposal departs from the statutory Proposition 98 split of 10.93% and proposes a \$43.8 million dollar cut to community colleges. Suspending the guaranteed split of Proposition 98 funds further widens the gap in community college per-student funding in comparison to the state's other two public postsecondary education sectors. We strongly urge Governor Brown to continue his longstanding support for community colleges and to maintain his perfect record on the equitable statutory split.

<sup>1</sup> Carnevale, Jayasundera, Hanson (2012). *Five Ways That Pay*. Washington, DC: Civic Enterprises. P. 2

## **COLLEGE FACILITIES**

### **• Honor Voters' Will and Fund Capital Outlay Projects**

In 2016, California voters approved a facilities bond providing a \$2 billion infrastructure investment in California's community colleges. The proposed budget only funds five of 29 ready-to-go capital projects for total of \$7.4 million of the \$29.2 billion facility needs.

## **SUCCESS**

### **• Protect Student Success**

Student success funds have transformed our system - helping colleges redesign the way students progress toward their educational goals - by closing achievement gaps. Protecting the investments in student success programs and services, such as education planning, tutoring labs, and hiring counselors, supports effective pathway design resulting in increased persistence and degree completion.

## **EQUITY**

### **• Equitably Fund Cal Grants for Community College Students**

Keep financial aid spending in financial aid. The 2017-18 Budget proposes to phase-out the Middle Class Scholarship, a \$74 million program. Further, the budget continues to distribute less than 10% of Cal Grant resources to California community college students despite the fact that our students comprise two-thirds of the higher education population. The lack of adequate financial aid leads students to take fewer classes, extends their time to graduation, and makes college unaffordable and a degree unattainable. We are urging Governor Brown and members of the Legislature to ensure that savings from the Middle Class Scholarship program remain invested in financial aid programs such as the competitive Cal Grant.

## **SUPPORTING COLLEGE-TO-COLLEGE COLLABORATION**

### **• Fund An Integrated Library System That Supports Access for All Students**

A systemwide Integrated Library System (ILS) will allow every student in California's community colleges to access a cloud-based library catalog that can be retrieved through a variety of means, including mobile devices. Transitioning to electronic resources, such as an electronic library resource catalog, supports further collaboration and cost-savings among colleges.

