



1. **Streamlined Credit Course Approval Process:** The Chancellor's Office will be instituting a new, streamlined process for the approval of credit courses. Under the redesigned framework, proposed curriculum within specified categories will no longer be reviewed by the Chancellor's Office. Instead, colleges will be responsible for ensuring that curriculum is accurate and in accordance with the Program and Course Approval Handbook. This change applies to credit courses in the following categories: 1) new proposals to existing approved credit programs; 2) substantial change proposals; 3) stand-alone proposals; and 4) nonsubstantial change proposals. This new process, intended to increase the efficiency and speed of the curriculum approval process, is part of our ongoing efforts in the Chancellor's Office to continually evaluate and improve our processes and systems. The memo announcing the policy change can be found at Curriculum Policy [http://extranet.cccco.edu/Portals/1/AA/Credit/2016/AA16-27\\_CreditCourseCertificationRvsd.pdf](http://extranet.cccco.edu/Portals/1/AA/Credit/2016/AA16-27_CreditCourseCertificationRvsd.pdf)
2. **UC Extends transfer deadline:** The University of California recently announced that, for a second year in a row, students hoping to transfer to a UC campus will have additional time to apply. The deadline for students filing applications to transfer to UC for fall 2017 will be extended to Jan. 3, 2017 for most majors, widening the application window for qualified students preparing to transfer to the university. Students are still encouraged to apply during the priority filing period of November, as the extension may not apply to certain programs and majors on some campuses. The list of closed programs and majors will be listed here <http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/check-majors/index.html> on Dec. 1. This extension is the latest in a series of efforts to aid transfer students. Earlier this year, the university boosted the number of Transfer Pathways, which outline a single set of course expectations that prospective transfer students can take to prepare for a major at any of UC's nine undergraduate campuses. Transfer Pathways for the 21 most popular majors now cover two-thirds of all transfer admissions applications UC receives. Please help get the word out about this extension to your students.
3. **Central Valley Higher Education Consortium:** In early October, I had the opportunity to join the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium in a meeting held near Yosemite National Park. For the past 16 years, this group of intersegmental education leaders has worked together to advance the goal of increasing college-going rates in the Central Valley. All the Central Valley community colleges, CSU Fresno and UC Merced were represented. The meeting included presentations on innovative educational strategies, such as accelerated remediation and co-requisite models, as well as in-depth conversations about what makes

regional partnerships successful. In addition to state and national educational experts, state legislators and foundation representatives also participated in the event. It was inspiring to spend time with this group of dedicated, innovative educators.

4. Interview with Incoming Chancellor Oakley: The Atlantic recently published a lengthy and thoughtful interview with incoming Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley. In the piece, he focuses on the role that community colleges play as a social and economic "equalizer" and expresses his commitment to use the post of Chancellor to pursue an agenda of social justice and equity. It is compelling coverage that paints community colleges in a very favorable light. <http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2016/09/incoming-chancellor-outlines-aggressive-agenda-for-californias-community-colleges/502091/>
5. Legislative hearing on Bachelor's Degree Pilot Program: Last week, Senator Marty Block held a public hearing at San Diego City College regarding the CCC Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program. Also participating in the hearing were Senators Jerry Hill and Benjamin Allen, as well as Assemblyman Jose Medina, who chairs the Assembly Higher Education Committee. Testimony was provided by San Diego CCD Chancellor Constance Carroll, who has provided tremendous leaderships in this area, Mira Costa President Sunny Cooke, Vice Chancellor for Educational Services Pam Walker, and League President Larry Galizio. The hearing focused on the implementation of the pilot in which 15 of our colleges are developing and offering innovative baccalaureate degrees in a broad range of applied fields that address emerging sectors with significant shortages of qualified job candidates. Considerable discussion also centered on whether the state should expand the offering of bachelor degree programs in community colleges. Coverage of the hearing can be found at: <http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/education/sd-me-block-hearing-20161102-story.html>
6. Assembly Hearing on Faculty Diversity: In early October, the Assembly Committee on Higher Education and the Assembly Subcommittee on Education Finance held a joint oversight hearing at San Jose State University on "Improving Faculty Diversity in California's Public Colleges and Universities." Representatives from the UC, CSU, and the Chancellor's Office appeared at the hearing to discuss segmental efforts to improve faculty diversity. The Assembly members in attendance were interested to hear how each segment is utilizing the \$2 million allocated for the first time in fiscal year 2016-17 for Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) efforts. The Chancellor's Office, represented by Acting General Council Jacob Knapp, shared information about our recent statewide efforts to improve faculty diversity, including our webinar series on EEO and diversity hiring practices, our "EEO and Equity in Faculty Hiring" regional training sessions, our new legal advisory on Proposition 209, and our modified "multiple measures" EEO Fund allocation formula. As colleges continue a robust wave of hiring, we have a tremendous opportunity to shape the future of our system by bringing on board the next generation of faculty and staff with the talent, dedication, and diversity needed to excel at our mission.

7. College Promise Event in Washington D.C.: During the last week of October, the national College Promise Campaign hosted PromiseNet 2016 in Washington D.C. The event was an opportunity for education and civic leaders from around the country to come together to learn about and promote the College Promise model. Incoming Chancellor Eloy Oakley attended and played a prominent role in the program. In addition, Vice Chancellor Paul Feist attended and reported that the California Community Colleges were well represented at the gathering. Thanks to all of you who attended or sent team members. I am pleased that California has stepped up as one of the leading states in this dynamic movement.
8. California College Promise Events: As I am sure you are aware, many of our districts up and down the state are hosting Promise events and launching College Promise initiatives. Last month I traveled to San Jose where Dr. Jill Biden, Martha Kanter, Executive Director of the national College Promise Campaign, and representatives from San Jose-Evergreen Community College District, including Chancellor Deborah Budd, San Jose City College President Byron Breland and Evergreen Valley College President Henry Yong met with a group of Silicon Valley business and civic leaders to discuss College Promise programs. The event was attended by well over 100 business leaders, Oakland Mayor Elizabeth Schaaf, San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo, Assemblymember Evan Low, and Board of Governors Member Tom Epstein. The group had a chance to learn about the College Promise model and identify ways in which they could help support its adoption at local and state levels. Last week, I had the honor of representing the Chancellor's Office at a pep rally held at Fresno State University to roll out the new Central Valley Promise. This initiative is a collaboration among area K-12 schools, Fresno City College, West Hills College, Reedley College, and Fresno State. The program features a no-cost first semester of college, as well as expanded counseling, mentoring, and other supports. Martha Kanter spoke at the event, along with numerous K-12 and higher education presidents and superintendents, but the real stars of the show were the 500 middle school and high school students who attended and cheered on the announcement.
9. Gathering of Higher Ed Leaders: I recently had the pleasure of attending a gathering at College of San Mateo hosted by President Michael Claire and University of California President Janet Napolitano. The event, dubbed a "roundtable," is one in a series of regional meetings orchestrated by President Napolitano to bring together community college chancellors/presidents and leadership from UC to discuss transfer and other issues of common interest. I have attended a number of these events over the past year and have always found them to be quite constructive-helping to unearth issues and strategies to improve the transfer process for our students. Of course, the meetings also establish and strengthen ongoing relationships among educators in the two systems, which is at the heart of improving our effectiveness. Thank you to President Claire and San Mateo CCD Chancellor Ron Galatolo for their hospitality and for helping to make the gathering such a success.