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April 10, 2019

Senator Holly Mitchell, Chair
Senate Budget Committee
State Capitol Room 5019

Assemblymember Phil Ting, Chair
Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 6026

RE: Support for Governor Newsom's Proposed 2018-19 State Budget

Dear Senator Mitchell and Assemblymember Ting,

On behalf of the Mt. San Antonio College, I am writing to express our support and gratitude for the Governor's proposed budget investment in the California Community College (CCC) system, and share some suggestions as you move forward with crafting the legislative proposals for inclusion in the May Revision.

To provide you with some background, Mt. San Antonio College, located in Walnut, is California's largest single-campus college district, educating nearly 60,000 students annually. The college opened in 1946 and serves nearly 20 cities and communities on its 420-acre campus. Mt. SAC offers more than 240 degree and certificate programs and is one of the largest workforce training providers in the state.

As you know, last year's budget included a major change of the funding formula for our system. Because this new Student Centered Funding Formula (SCFF) is so vital to student success and will greatly affect the way CCC's will deliver education, we appreciate the Governor's willingness to slow down the implementation process and allow us to fully assess the implications. The Governor proposes:

- Funding the outcomes included in the student success allocation at their current rates, adjusted for inflation in 2019-20, pending further review.
- Capping the student success allocation year-over-year increases to 10%.
- Clarifying that the transfer student definition reflects an unduplicated count.

Based on the vision of an effective funding model platform, we are hopeful the Legislature and Administration will examine potential changes needed in the SCFF to ensure there are no unintended consequences. We encourage the Legislature to take a closer look at financial aid, specifically regarding the following issues:

- Providing funding based on Pell Grant awards rather than Pell Grant eligibility does not recognize the need for students to reserve their Pell Grant funds to defray the higher cost of attending a four-year institution upon transfer.
- Improving financial aid awards to students in need requires more than a financial incentive. Many colleges need technical assistance to implement best practices particularly to serve students with challenging financial, family, and residence issues. Funding a requirement for the system to provide such assistance would both meet the goals of the Vision for Success and provide needed financial support to our neediest students.

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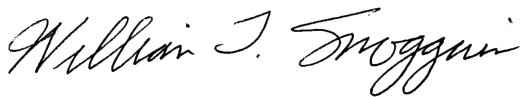
In addition to the SCFF, we respectfully request your consideration of evaluating the proposed \$40 million to extend the College Promise Program for a second year. Our College and many others have not yet fully implemented the first year of the College Promise Program and have little data to evaluate its effectiveness. Mt. SAC is among those that are using College Promise funds to address the unmet need of those who do not receive sufficient financial aid to cover the cost of books, transportation, technology access, and food and housing insecurity. Greater awareness of these barriers to student retention and success should be considered before providing an additional College Promise allocation to California Community Colleges.

Finally, we would like to convey our strong support for the following proposals to be included in the final 2019-20 State Budget:

- \$3 billion one-time funds for pension reduction for the K-12 and California Community College system;
- 12 new facility projects in the capital outlay plan, representing \$700 million of Proposition 51 funding;
- Cal Grant Access Awards reform for student parents; and
- \$10 million of ongoing general funds for legal services for undocumented and immigrant students, faculty, and staff on CCC campuses.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our position. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact the College's Policy Advisor at Nossaman LLP, Ashley Walker, at 916-442-8888 or awalker@nossaman.com.

Sincerely,



William T. Scroggins, Ph.D.
President & CEO

cc: Hon. Jay Obernolte, Vice Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Hon. Jim Nielsen, Vice Chair, Senate Budget Committee
Members, Senate Budget Subcommittee 1
Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 2
Jamie Callahan, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor
Chris Ferguson, Department of Finance
Maritza Urquiza, Department of Finance
Megan Baier, Education Policy Director, Office of the Senate President pro Tem
Stacey Reardon, Special Assistant to Speaker, Office of the Assembly Speaker
Anita Lee, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Mark Martin, Senior Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee