



TO: Board of Trustees
Mt. San Antonio College

FROM: Ashley S. Walker, Policy Advisor
Nossaman, LLP

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RE: Legislative Accomplishments

Nossaman has had the privilege of representing the College on noncredit issues before the State legislature since February 2017. We began our engagement on a small scale, focused on high priority budget and policy issues impacting noncredit. Over the past two years, our scope of work has increased due to the several important California Community College issues that the State Legislature and Administration have been focused on, and have had much success working together. Below is an outline of our accomplishment since our legislative advocacy engagement began.

Summary of Accomplishments:

- **Increased visibility in Sacramento with key decision makers.** The College has increased legislative activity over the last two years, which has increased visibility in Sacramento. The College is seen as a resource and model for the system.
- **Strengthened relationships with important Members of the Legislature and staff.** The College had existing relationships that have been strengthened through heightened advocacy efforts. These relationships are vital to policy and budget actions that impact the College.
- **Coordinated an on-boarding session with the College.** The purpose was to learn more about programs and needs in noncredit. Nossaman visited the College at the beginning of 2017 and 2018 to get up to speed on the College's programs and priorities and to set the advocacy agenda for the upcoming year.
- **Provided guidance and strategic advice on the College's State Legislative Priorities.** Nossaman held several meetings with the College to discuss strategy for accomplishing legislative goals. Nossaman helped guide the discussions by giving suggestions based on the political climate in Sacramento.
- **Weighed in on the State Budget process.** Nossaman advocated and testified in 2017-18 State Budget hearings regarding the inclusion of noncredit in Guided Pathways. Nossaman drafted a detailed position letter on impacts of the 2018-19 State Budget as proposed by Governor Brown. Nossaman provided oral testimony at all Senate and Assembly Budget Committee hearings that were relevant to the College's priorities.

Nossaman met with the Department of Finance and several key legislative offices on multiple occasions to discuss the College's position on the State Budget.

- **Successfully retained full funding for noncredit apportionment outside of the SCFF.** Through strategic advocacy efforts, Mt. San Antonio College played a leadership role in retaining funding for noncredit outside of the SCFF.
- **Successfully supported a COLA for the Adult Education Program (AEP).** The College supported the budget request for an ongoing COLA for the AEP program. This effort was successfully included in the 2018-19 State Budget.
- **Took several positions on State bills.** Nossaman made recommendations to the College on when to take a position on a bill. The College took positions on six bills that were directly related to the College's noncredit priorities.
- **Worked on noncredit related amendments that were successfully included in the enacted version of AB 3101 (Carrillo) to streamline the CCCApply process.** The College played a key role in drafting amendments to the bill that directly benefited noncredit students.
- **Successfully advocated for amendments to SB 68 (Lara) which expanded the AB 540 program.** Nossaman worked with the College to draft amendments to SB 68 (Lara) that would allow noncredit students to more easily access the eligibility criteria provided within. Nossaman arranged a meeting with Senator Lara to discuss our proposed amendments. Senator Lara accepted our amendments and Governor Brown signed the bill into law.
- **Coordinated several Sacramento advocacy meetings.** Nossaman coordinated several advocacy meetings in Sacramento with the College's participation. These meetings were largely focused on noncredit budget and legislative issues, but also included larger discussions about the Student Centered Funding Formula (SCFF) impacts. Nossaman provided the College with background and talking points prior to all meetings.
- **Participated in coalition lobby days.** Nossaman participated in several advocacy days with the Community College League of California focused on priority bills for the College.
- **Coordinated Federal advocacy meetings focused on the WIOA Title I and II.** Nossaman coordinated meetings with the offices of the California Senators to discuss the impacts of the WIOA budget cuts on the College's noncredit programs.
- **Provided leadership in promoting a necessary Title 5 change.** Nossaman worked with the College and noncredit coalition to raise a Title 5 issue regarding apportionment for noncredit students. The repeal of Section 58003.3, Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, solidified the College's legal ability to claim apportionment for undocumented noncredit students. The item was passed by the Board of Governors in May 2018.

- **Convened a noncredit coalition with several other Districts.** Nossaman worked with Mt. San Antonio College and North Orange County Community College to convene a group of community college districts that either have large noncredit programs, or are interested in expanding their noncredit programs. In addition to individual Districts, the coalition also includes the Community College League of California and other Sacramento advocates who represent community colleges.
- **Provided weekly legislative reports.** Nossaman prepared weekly legislative reports that outlined every bill related to community colleges and the status of the bill in the legislative process.
- **Held regular calls with the College.** Nossaman held regularly calls with the College to ensure the staff was up to date on the latest policy developments in Sacramento.