

CEO Colleagues,

I hope that you and your families are staying safe. Thank you for continuing to adapt to the changes and challenges that you are experiencing. I wanted to raise a few issues for you to consider in your planning:

- **Campus Safe Re-Opening** – As you have heard from Joe Wyse, I have asked the CEO Board to convene a workgroup to develop guidance and recommendations for the Chancellor's Office to use in advising and supporting our colleges as they begin to re-open their campuses. As that work unfolds I do want us to keep in mind a few key issues; **1)** Expect to be in an environment with physical distancing for the foreseeable future. **2)** Capture all of the remote working practices that are supporting greater efficiencies and hang on to them. This moment provides us an opportunity to change the way we meet, communicate and organize and become more effective and efficient. **3)** Consider the needs of our employees. Many of our employees have children impacted by the K-12 and child care closures and many more are concerned about how to interact with the campus community safely as we re-open our campuses and offices. We will need to take a long-term approach at working with our staff and putting into motion new and sometimes costly office and classroom safety precautions. Keep track of the costs you will incur to make the necessary modifications and please share your best practices. My office will support you in any way we can. **4)** Continue to improve and build on your online infrastructure. We need to remain flexible, adaptable and resilient going forward so keep improving your online learning and student support infrastructure.
- **May Revision and Budget Advocacy** – No doubt that you have heard that COVID-19 has created a big hole in the budget. News will begin to trickle out tomorrow about the amazing size of the projected deficit. I anticipate that the budget shortfall will dwarf what we witnessed in 2008 (take a deep breath). The May Revision will highlight part of the problem but it won't be until August that we will have a good handle on revenues. We are pushing hard on our budget advocacy to keep any cuts from the 19-20 budget and mitigate cuts to the 20-21 budget. Thank you to everyone who has joined us and signed on to our budget letter. We are asking for as much on-going revenue as possible for your base funding and as much flexibility as possible for any one-time resources. It is important that we come together and stress the importance of our colleges to the recovery of California. It is also important that we find every way possible to maintain access to our programs to the displaced workers the crisis has impacted and the degree/transfer seeking students that will be drawn our programs. We continue to press for maximum flexibility in funding, recouping costs of COVID-19 and opening the door to other learning modalities like Competency Based Education. I ask that we come together in a unified budget advocacy approach. I want all of our 115 colleges to thrive and to work together to transform our system in the aftermath of this crisis. You have my commitment to fight for every dollar available in Prop 98 and in the state general fund.
- **Efficiencies/Flexibility** – As we move into a severely budget constrained environment I'd like you as leaders to consider ways that we can consolidate services and back office functions in order to become more efficient and reduce the cost of operations. Many of you have been thinking of creative ideas like consolidating IT support, cloud computing services, forming Joint Powers Authorities in regions to consolidate back office supports and labor pools and many other ideas. I'd ask that we take this type of white board ideating to a next level and let me and my team know how we can facilitate these types of solution through more flexibility or legislative advocacy. I am particularly concerned for our small, rural colleges. I'd encourage the League to consider growing some of these ideas before the worst of the economic downturn hits us.

Thank you for your leadership. I never dreamed of having to deal with another major recession so soon after the last. But here we are and we will be called on to lead again! Stay safe and stay sane.

**Eloy Ortiz Oakley**  
Chancellor, California Community Colleges