

20 April 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund ([GEERF](#))  
Request: Fifty Percent Share for California Community Colleges

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the undersigned, we respectfully urge you to allocate 50% of the GEERF to the California Community Colleges. As the largest workforce development education entity in the United States that trains 70% of the nurses, EMTs, respiratory therapists, law enforcement, firefighters and other first responders, California Community Colleges are at the front lines of responding to this crisis and are ready to serve as the economic catalyst for the recovery.

Our requested 50% share of the GEERF is consistent with our state's allocation model for the federal Perkins Act, which California Community Colleges share with K-12. We believe this is particularly appropriate for GEERF insofar as community colleges received a disproportionately low per-student share of the federal CARES Act dollars relative to either the California State University or University of California (\$393 per student for community colleges compared to \$1,065 for CSU and \$925 for UC).

With over 2.1 million students, our colleges have done incredible work in migrating coursework to the remote space while continuing to focus on the three pillars of access, success, and equity. As we have learned from the prior two economic downturns, dislocated workers turn to community colleges for retraining and depend on them at times of need. Our system is ready to enroll new students, particularly in programs that train for professions considered essential for the new economy. We must stand ready to absorb and help them, allowing California to return to work and tax dollars to once again flow to state and local governments.

We thank you for your continuing support of our institutions and particularly your recognition of community colleges at your press conference of March 24. Our organizations stand ready to assist you as we continue to confront the pandemic and begin to rebuild the social and economic infrastructure of the Golden State.

Sincerely,