

## CEO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### **DR. FRANCISCO C. RODRIGUEZ**

*Chair, CEO Executive  
Committee Chancellor  
Los Angeles Community College District*

### **DR. WILLIAM T. SCROGGINS**

*Vice Chair, CEO Executive  
Committee Superintendent/President  
Mt. San Antonio Community College District*

### **MR. MARVIN MARTINEZ**

*LAOCRC Fiscal  
Agent Chancellor  
Rancho Santiago Community College District*

### **DR. KATHRYN E. JEFFERY**

*Superintendent/President  
Santa Monica Community College District*

### **DR. JOHN WEISPFENNING**

*Chancellor  
Coast Community College District*

## GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

### MEMBERS

### **DR. JOSE FIERRO**

*Superintendent/President  
Cerritos CCD*

### **DR. GERALDINE M. PERRI**

*Superintendent/President  
Citrus Community College District*

### **DR. JOHN WEISPFENNING**

*Chancellor, Coast Community College District*

### **DR. KEITH CURRY**

*President/CEO  
Compton Community College District*

### **DR. DENA P. MALONEY**

*Superintendent/President  
El Camino Community College District*

### **DR. DAVID VIAR**

*Superintendent/President  
Glendale Community College District*

### **DR. FRANCISCO C. RODRIGUEZ**

*Chancellor  
Los Angeles Community College District*

### **MS. LOU ANNE BYNUM**

*Interim Superintendent/President  
Long Beach Community College District*

### **DR. WILLIAM T. SCROGGINS**

*Superintendent/CEO  
Mt. San Antonio Community College District*

### **DR. CHERYL MARSHALL**

*Chancellor  
North Orange County Community College  
District*

### **DR. ERIKA ENDRIJONAS**

*Superintendent/President  
Pasadena Area Community College District*

### **DR. ARTURO REYES**

*Superintendent/President  
Rio Hondo Community College District*

### **MR. MARVIN MARTINEZ**

*Chancellor  
Rancho Santiago Community College District*

### **DR. KATHRYN JEFFERY**

*Superintendent/President  
Santa Monica Community College District*

### **DR. KATHLEEN BURKE**

*Chancellor  
South Orange County Community College  
District*

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### **DR. ADRIENE "ALEX" DAVIS**

*Assistant Vice Chancellor, EWD, ED Services  
Rancho Santiago Community College District*

June 18, 2020

Chief Executive Officers  
California Community Colleges Board

Dear Chief Executive Officers:

On behalf of the CEO Executive Committee of the Los Angeles Orange County Regional Consortium (LAOCRC), this letter represents the views, interests and concerns of the 28 colleges and the presidents and district chancellors across 15 districts. Our region enrolls 40% (848,490) of the students attending California Community Colleges. **We write to you as colleagues to urge you to use your collective voice to advocate for career education, for the restoration of funding and for a change to the funding formula to the Strong Workforce Program.**

### **Background**

Our State is facing uncertain times with the impact of COVID-19, our region represents a disparate number of initial and pandemic unemployment insurance (IUI/PUI) claimants. Many of these out of work individuals will need retooling and/or upskilling through career training at our community colleges to obtain gainful employment. Below are the IUI/PUI percentages represented in Los Angeles and Orange counties as a block:

- I. **IUI Claims:** LAOCRC represents 1,568,963 **(39%)** of claimants compared to a total of 4,018,662 in the State of California.
- II. **PUI Claims:** LAOCRC represents 263,929 **(42%)** claimants compared to a total of 633,710 filed in the State of California.

These unemployment insurance claims are sobering and warrant stabilized funding resources for our community colleges as this unprecedented pandemic has shown very clear evidence of racial, income and gender inequities around access to healthcare; access to technology; access to mental health, first aid basic needs, and food and housing insecurities; and, equally as important, access to workforce training that provides this underserved population the opportunity to self-sufficient living conditions. And, now, these inequities tilt towards the social injustice that is necessarily dominating the national discourse on racial equity and social justice.

**As such, the role of our community colleges is even more central and critical to America's economic recovery, the reintegration of displaced and dislocated unemployed/underemployed workforce, as well as incumbent workers.** However, we cannot sufficiently contribute to economic recovery and provide much-needed career education training resource to the disproportionate unless investments are stabilized into Career Technical Education (CTE) programs and inequities are remedied. Our community colleges are in dire need of serving hundreds of thousands of men and women who are disadvantaged, low income, and without an income.

## **Proposed Solutions for Economic Recovery and Gainful Employment**

We urge you to consider the proposed solutions below, which we believe to be strategic in our economic recovery and critical to support current and anticipate career education training. The livelihoods of our underserved students and unemployed Californians have been impacted beyond the Great Recession and their lives are hanging in the balance. As such, the Strong Workforce Program investment initiative was inactive for this very purpose.

To do our part in effectively responding to the impact that of this pandemic and economic downturn, we are proposing the following solutions:

- 1. Maintaining Strong Workforce Investments to Career Technical Education**
- 2. Closing the Gap on Career Technical Education Inequities**
- 3. Changing the SWP Resource Allocation Formula**

- 1. Rationale for Maintaining Strong Workforce Investments to Career Technical Education:** Strong Workforce Program (SWP) investments are continuing to power California's economy and creating greater access to higher education. Many programs and activities that are supported by SWP investments are building bridges for student success by closing critical skill gaps, both in the workforce and in basic academic readiness, and are helping our community colleges to keep up the pace with responding to our regional industries that are rapidly changing. COVID-19 has created a climate that requires another layer of career readiness for the unemployed and the SWP investments will make a tremendous difference in serving the unemployed population by building additional bridged between career training and industry employers. This is not the time to reduce workforce training resources and funding structures, and reducing these at a time when economic recovery largely depends on a trained and employed workforce would be catastrophic and indefensible. Maintaining the SWP investments to support Career Technical Education is even more critical to the survival of or local communities across the State of California.
- 2. Rationale for Closing the Gaps on Career Technical Education Inequities:** The responsibility with ensuring our students have access to equitable resources lies with the district and college leadership. As Chief Executive Officers, we find ourselves with scores of people to serve and less dollars to serve our students. The environment we find ourselves in today with proposed cuts to the Student-Centered Funding Formula as well as Strong Workforce Program, draw a direct connection and nexus between Career Technical Education and Equity. This includes access to training for incumbent workers, adult education, high-skill and high-wage in demand career training in which community colleges are depending on the State of California to support. The demographics of the unemployment insurance claims are heavily impacting underresourced communities, have disproportionately impacted individuals between ages 20 – 44, and align a great deal with our disadvantaged students across the State of California. We can continue sending data and testimonials about our students, underserved and unemployed populations, and career training programs and their impact to these stakeholder groups. However, we need equitable resources to keep their lives from hanging in the balance and connected to accessible quality career training and resources that support transitions from the classroom to the workplace. To begin close the gaps on career training inequities, we must bolster our programs, activities, and services to support equity among the disenfranchised.

3. **Rationale for Changing the SWP Resource Allocation Formula:** Using unemployment rate (rather than an equitable metric such as unemployed persons) to calculate 2019-2020 SWP allocations resulted in an unexpected and dramatic shift in funding that affected regions with the largest population of underserved students and communities. Since emphasis is placed on getting “persons” into jobs, it’s equally important to use the total metric of unemployed persons as the third factor in calculating SWP base and incentive allocations.

We respectfully request that each of the Chief Executive Officers support and advocate for these priorities that are of statewide concern. We look forward to having an opportunity to discuss this matter further, to ultimately inform the Governor’s Final 2020-2021 Budget.

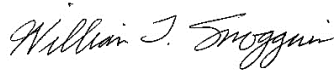
Sincerely,



Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D.  
Chancellor, Los Angeles CCD  
Chair, LAOCRC CEO Executive Committee



Marvin Martinez  
Chancellor, Rancho Santiago CCD  
LAOCRC CEO Executive Committee



William T. Scroggins, Ph.D.  
President/CEO, Mt. SACCD  
LAOCRC CEO Executive Committee



Kathryn Jeffery, Ph.D.  
Superintendent/President, Santa Monica CCD  
LAOCRC CEO Executive Committee



John Weispfenning, Ph.D.  
Chancellor, Coast CCD  
LAOCRC CEO Executive Committee



Cheryl A. Marshall, Ph.D.  
Chancellor, North Orange County CCD  
LAOCRC CEO Executive Committee

Copy: Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley  
Vice Chancellor, Workforce and Economic Development, Sheneui Weber  
LA/OC Regional Consortium Governance Council  
LA/OC Regional Consortium College Presidents  
Dr. Adriene “Alex” Davis, Executive Director, LA/OC Regional Consortium