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*Superintendent/President
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DR. KATHLEEN BURKE

*Chancellor
South Orange County Community College District*

November 15, 2019

Chancellor Eloy Oakley
California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
1102 Q Street
Sacramento, California 95811

Chancellor Oakley:

We are writing on behalf of the CEO Executive Committee of the Los Angeles Orange County Regional Consortium (LAOCRC) representing the views, interests and concerns of the 28 colleges and one stand-alone adult education center that served approximately 848,490 students in 2018-2019 students. Specifically, we are raising formal concerns with the significant reductions of 29.5%, totaling \$14,216,835, made to the Los Angeles (\$13,466,820) and Orange (\$750,015) Counties 2019-2020 Strong Workforce Program (SWP) Base Allocations.

Proposed Solution

As the regional consortium that serves the highest number of the most under-resourced students, we respectfully request an immediate reinstatement of our 2019-2020 SWP Base Local and Regional allocations of \$14,216,835.00.

Rationale for the Proposed Solution

As the largest community college student-serving region in the State, in 2018-2019, Los Angeles and Orange counties served 39%, or 848,490 students, of the 2.2M students in the California Community College system. Thirty-three percent (33%) of the students we serve are disadvantaged, including:

- a. 38% of first-generation students
- b. 37% in need of EOPS services.
- c. 35% of economically disadvantaged students
- d. 35% of students who have accessed financial aid
- e. 30% of foster youth
- f. 30% of students with disabilities
- g. 27% of student-veterans

Additional Concerns about Timing and Consultation

We have raised multiple concerns surrounding timing and consultation with the region, and the impact to our region as a result of the Chancellor's Office Workforce and Economic Development Division's (WEDD) processes that allocate SWP funds.

Our region was not properly notified in a timely basis that our programs would be impacted by such a draconian reduction of 29.5%. The impact is harmful to the success of our programs. There is also an inherent flaw in the process for planning and developing local and regional projects. Prior to when allocation amounts are known, our community colleges are encouraged by the WEDD to begin entering projects into the NOVA system. These projects are codified by many stakeholders and endure a rigorous approval process at local and regional levels prior to being entered into the NOVA system.

Here's an example to highlight the flaw in the system: Planning for 2019-2020 SWP allocation was encouraged to begin in Fall 2018 by WEDD, and every regional project was eventually ranked and approved at the College Resource Leadership Council (CRLC) membership level. This is a committee in our governance structure where voting

members are designated by our college presidents. Once projects were codified and approved by the CRLC, they are submitted to the Governance Council, which is the decision-making body in our governance structure that is comprised of the 15 Los Angeles and Orange County district CEOs. We reviewed, discussed, and approved these proposed projects at our January 18, 2019 business meeting, in order to meet the WEDD deadline for entry into the NOVA system by January 31, 2019. By March 2019, the regions had one final opportunity to make adjustments to projects in NOVA, so that our Fiscal Agent could begin developing sub-agreements to allocate funds for all approved projects in order for colleges to be ready to start implementation on July 1, 2019.

Because of the flawed allocation timeline, the actual SWP Base allocations were not known until August 2, 2019, an entire year after planning began in our region for the 2019-2020 SWP allocations. An August 2, 2019 memo from the WEDD stated that the 2019-2020 SWP Incentive allocations were expected to be announced in September 2019. To-date, we still have not been notified. The clock has started ticking on the performance period for 2019-2020 as of July 1, 2019.

The current process requires that we make corrections to planning and radical adjustments to plans, which has become destabilizing and disruptive to the region. Implementing programs and setting objective targets in a context of widely fluctuating allocations, jeopardize the whole design of the SWP Base and Incentive funding model.

Lastly, there were errors in SWP base calculations for allocations in 2017-2018 and 2018-2019, as well as errors in calculations for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 SWP incentive allocations far after budgets were established, expenditures encumbered, and staffing hires. The WEDD contacted us to make reductions to budgets that were already committed.

To reiterate our proposed solution, as the regional consortium that serves the highest number of the most under-resourced students, we respectfully request an immediate reinstatement of our 2019-2020 SWP Base Local and Regional allocations at \$14,216,835.00 and look forward to discussing this with you in-person. Additionally, as time is a great factor for implementing projects in our region, we respectfully request your response by Friday, December 6, 2019 before the end of day.

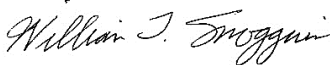
Sincerely,



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.
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Kathryn Jeffery, Ph.D.
President/CEO, Santa Monica CCD
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John Weispfenning, Ph.D.
Chancellor, Coast CCD
LAOCRC CEO Executive Committee

Copy: LA/OC Regional Consortium College Presidents
Dr. Adriene "Alex" Davis, Executive Director, LA/OC Regional Consortium (LAOCRC)