

From Sonya Christian

Sent: Thursday, June 01, 2023 9:36 PM

Subject: A quick note as I wrap up my first day in this new role.

Dear CEO Colleague:

First, thank you for your encouraging emails and texts letting me know that you are rooting for me ... With this outpouring of support, I began to wonder if you all knew something about the job that I did not.

Also, thank you for your support with asks related to Dual Enrollment, Climate Action, and some other pieces of work even before my first day on the job.

In the last few months, since the appointment was made by the Board of Governors in February, I have been immersed in conversations with many of you, the Chancellor's Office, agency leads, and I look forward to more. I've also been reviewing our work related to the Vision for Success and the Governor's Roadmap for Community Colleges. Here are some preliminary thoughts emerging from these discussions.

One of the areas of focus are the **critical eight years from ninth grade to baccalaureate completion**. This includes the deepening of dual enrollment with our colleges; a shift from high school students only *starting* college after graduation, to instead *continuing* college after high school, is becoming a realistic option. This makes college a true universal choice rather than a choice of circumstance or privilege.

The governor's [Roadmap](#) for community colleges call for students to complete 12 college credits by graduation from high school. Eight years after AB 288 was enacted, only 6% of ninth graders are participating in college classes and 14% of seniors. We have a significant opportunity as we do our planning this summer to influence the Fall 2023 dual enrollment courses for our high school students.

Together we will answer the call to meet California's workforce needs. The governor's Roadmap calls out four priority sectors – healthcare, climate action, education, and technology. Many of our colleges are already on the frontier of climate work. As a collective, let's identify some of the priority areas of focus for this work and take care of our planet while we are taking care of our students and our communities.