



New Format: This marks the first edition of *CEO Connection*, an updated version of the *First Monday*, utilizing an electronic format to provide you with information in a timely manner, including attachments and links to additional materials. While the new format makes it more susceptible to sharing, I would ask you to keep this communication between us. Preserving the confidential nature of this correspondence will ensure that information can be shared in a direct and candid manner. I hope you find it useful.

Budget Update: On June 27th, Governor Brown signed the 2016-17 State Budget and related trailer bills. This budget continues a strong upward trajectory in Proposition 98 spending, rising from \$47.3 billion in 2011-12 to \$71.9 billion in 2016-17, an increase of \$24.6 billion or 52 percent over five years. For the California Community Colleges, the 2016-17 State Budget provides slots for 50,000 additional students at our colleges, as well as \$75 million in additional base revenue for colleges to support high-quality education and address increasing retiree benefit costs. The budget also provides \$200 million to expand and improve career technical education programs, which will position our colleges to better meet California's growing workforce needs. While this was another great budget year for community colleges, it is important to note some storm clouds building on the state's fiscal horizon. Potential challenges ahead include the prospect of expiring Proposition 30 revenues and the risk of a recession as the recent period of economic expansion subsides. I would like to applaud the work of Mario Rodriguez, our Acting Vice Chancellor for Fiscal Policy, who has been doing a great job advocating for the California Community Colleges in this year's budget process.

Proposed Proposition 30 Extension: The Children's Education & Health Care Protection Act, a ballot initiative that would extend the income tax portions of Proposition 30 for 12 years, will be on the November ballot. These revenues, which have reached annual levels as high as \$6.7 billion, have shored up the state budget in recent years (visit the Legislative Analyst's Office's website for more detailed estimates—[LAO - Prop 30](#)). In May, the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) reported that 64% of adults surveyed support the proposal, with 58% approval among likely voters. At his May Revision press conference, the governor stated he would not campaign for or against the extension of Proposition 30. The influential California Chamber of Commerce, which was neutral when Proposition 30 was on the ballot, recently came out in opposition to the extension. This ballot measure will have a major impact on the fiscal condition of our colleges, so I encourage you to remain informed and engaged in the coming months.

Statewide Facilities Bond: The Kindergarten through Community College Public Education Facilities Bond Act, a \$9 billion state bond, has been approved for the November ballot. The bond would provide \$7 billion for school facilities and \$2 billion for community college facilities. An April PPIC survey found that 76% of adults support the proposal, with a 63% approval among likely voters. Bond proponents had feared that the governor would oppose the bond due to concerns over fiscal pressures on the state budget as well as policy criticisms he has directed toward the K-12 school facilities program funding allocation formula. Recently, the governor said he would not campaign against the bond. The governor's neutrality, along with favorable polling data for the bond, are positive news for the prospects of a successful school and community college bond in November.

Accreditation: The CEO Board continues its impressive work to craft an improved model of accreditation for the California Community Colleges. In early June, their Workgroup I, which is focusing on options to improve the current accreditor, issued a 92 page report loaded with thoughtful analysis and recommendations. Major elements of the report address: improving the processes for training and selecting accreditation teams; improving the tone, timing and quality of communications from the Commission; developing a process for member colleges to offer feedback to evaluate the effectiveness of the Commission; improving the process and structure for college visits; and addressing financial considerations impacting members, including ongoing litigation costs. The report has been shared with the Commission which thanked the CEO Board and committed to studying it, responding to the recommendations, and partnering with the CEOs to address the identified issues. While there is still much work ahead, it is clear to me that we are moving in the right direction. Los Rios CCD Chancellor Brian King sent an update to the CEOs describing the report and other recent activity. The update and the full report can be found at the website maintained by the Community College League of California (CCLC) and the Chancellor's Office which can be found at: [Accreditation Report](#). I would like to express my appreciation to Chancellor King, Contra Costa CCD Chancellor Helen Benjamin, and Grossmont-Cuyamaca Chancellor Cindy Miles for the leadership and hard work in these efforts.

Online Teaching Conference: Last month, I had the opportunity to attend the Online Teaching Conference in San Diego. The annual conference, co-hosted by the Chancellor's Office and our partners, is one of the most popular online teaching gatherings in the nation. This year's conference drew 800 people and was bustling with energy around the system's recent expansion in the use of educational technology to support student success—in particular, the Online Education Initiative (<http://ccconlineed.org/>), the Education Planning Initiative (<http://cccedplan.org/>), and the Common Assessment Initiative (<http://cccassess.org/>). These exciting initiatives present tremendous opportunities to improve instructional delivery and student support. Importantly, these initiatives will also allow us to operate more like a system, leveraging the benefits of being a 113 college, \$8 billion organization. A great example of this is the recent system-wide acquisition of a course management system (CMS), Canvas. Increasingly, not only online courses, but also traditional face-to-face classes use a CMS to support the delivery of instruction. This year, as part of the Online Education

Initiative, using a competitive bidding process we entered into a contract for a system-wide license of the Canvas CMS. Under this contract, we were able to leverage our buying power to negotiate improvements in the CMS as well as a significantly discounted price. We estimate that the deal will result in \$8 million in annual savings compared to what colleges would have paid through separate CMS contracts. In addition, sharing a common CMS will allow us to more effectively and efficiently offer the colleges training, technical assistance, data tools, and other supports. The technology revolution is intensifying at our colleges and our students stand to benefit greatly from these developments. For more information about the Canvas CMS that is available to you as part of our state-wide grant, visit: <http://ccconlineed.org/technology-resources/>

CCC Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program Summit: On July 6th, the Chancellor's Office will sponsor a summit focusing on the CCC BA Pilot Program ([link](#)). The event, which will be held at CSU Fullerton, is primarily targeted to teams from pilot colleges including administrators, faculty, students, institutional researchers, industry partners, and foundation directors, but is open to others interested in learning about these innovative programs. Attendees will access current information and expert advice on a broad range of topics related to developing and implementing a baccalaureate degree program at a community college. In addition, we anticipate that personnel from pilot colleges will engage in robust sharing of lessons learned and best practices that will assist them in successful implementation. The event will feature presentations by Senator Marty Block, San Diego CCD Chancellor Constance Carroll, and Dr. Beth Hagan of the Community College Baccalaureate Association. Attached, is a flyer with some additional details about the summit. I want to express my gratitude to Chancellor Carroll who has been a champion for the CCC BA from the very start. We would not have gotten this far without her vision and leadership. If you have any questions about the summit, please contact Vice Chancellor Pam Walker at (916) 322-6886.

CTE Leadership Summit: The Chancellor's Office is partnering with CCLC to host an upcoming meeting for CEOs and other campus leaders to learn about and discuss the new Strong Workforce Program which will provide \$200 million to improve and expand workforce training programs in the California Community Colleges. The event, to be held in Oakland on August 5 and 6, will help ensure that college leaders are informed and prepared to lead successful implementation of the new program. Thanks to CCLC CEO Larry Galizio and his team for being great partners on this event. I hope you are able to attend or send representatives from your college. The attachment provides additional details which can also be found at: [CTE Leadership Summit](#)

California College Promise Event: We will be co-hosting an event ([link](#)) in Oakland on August 30 to highlight college promise programs and share effective models for promoting college affordability. Our co-hosts are the Regional Education Laboratory West (REL WEST), CCLC, the College Promise Campaign, and the California College Promise Campaign Leadership Team. Increased attention to the issue of college affordability at the national and state levels have created an opportunity to expand financial aid, scholarships, book grants, and other strategies to help support our

students as they pursue their educational goals. This gathering will focus on effective models and promising practices to establish or strengthen such programs at the college level. Often such models involve foundation partners, donors, or the local business community. Contra Costa CCD Chancellor Helen Benjamin is the chair of the California College Promise Campaign Leadership Team and has gone above and beyond to organize and promote this event. Other prominent California Community College leaders involved in the Campaign are: Constance Carroll, San Diego CCD Chancellor; Brian King, Los Rios CCD Chancellor; Eloy Ortiz Oakley, Long Beach CCD President; Francisco Rodriguez, Los Angeles CCD Chancellor; Sandra Serrano, Bakersfield CCD Chancellor; and Larry Galizio, CCLC CEO. It is sure to be an informative and uplifting event. The attached flyer provides more information. I encourage you to attend or send representation from your college.

Staffing Changes: As you may know, Interim Vice Chancellor and General Counsel Thuy Nguyen recently left the Chancellor's Office to assume her new post as President of Foothill College. We appreciate all her great work during her time with us, including spearheading important initiatives to promote the hiring of diverse faculty across our system. I have tapped Jacob "Jake" Knapp, an attorney in our Legal Office, to serve as Acting General Counsel until we can complete a search for a permanent general counsel. Jake is one of the brightest and hardest working attorneys I have ever met and I have complete confidence in his ability to lead our Legal Office. We will miss Thuy's leadership and commitment to equity, but will continue all the great work that she started. Best wishes to Thuy in her new role!

Vice Chancellor for External Relations Vincent Stewart will be leaving the Chancellor's Office next month to join Children Now, a statewide children's advocacy organization based in Oakland. During his four years in the Chancellor's Office, Vince has been a highly effective and versatile member of our executive management team. Vince will be with us through the July Board meeting. We will miss him deeply, but are thankful for all his contributions while he was with us. We congratulate him on his new opportunity and wish him well. I have asked Mike Magee, Director of State Governmental Relations, to step up and serve as Acting Vice Chancellor for External Relations following Vince's departure. Mike has worked in the Chancellor's Office for 18 years and brings a wealth of experience, great relationships in the Capitol, and deep knowledge of the California Community Colleges. I appreciate Mike's willingness to lead the External Relations division as we recruit and fill the permanent position.