



**Eloy Ortiz Oakley Selected to be Next Chancellor:** Congratulations to the Board of Governors on making an excellent choice for the next Chancellor of the California Community Colleges. Long Beach CCD President Oakley's comments at the July board meeting left no doubt why he was their selection. In sharing his inspiring personal story of finding a path to college and career, starting at Golden West College in Coast CCD, he eloquently described the important role community colleges play in opening doors and improving lives for millions of Californians every year. President Oakley's nationally recognized track record of leadership on student success and equity is well suited for the challenges and opportunities currently facing the California Community Colleges. We look forward to President Oakley formally beginning his tenure as CCC Chancellor on December 19, 2016.

**Staffing Changes:** As you know, Mario Rodriguez has been serving as our Acting Vice Chancellor for Fiscal Policy since April, when Dan Troy left to take a position at Cuesta College. During that time, Mario has done an exceptional job in all aspects of the position, most notably helping us successfully navigate the close of this year's legislative budget process. I am very pleased to [announce](#) that Governor Brown has recently appointed Mario to the permanent position. We had requested that the Governor's Office make this appointment and, thankfully, they did so. See, attached, a press release we issued on the appointment. Mario has a rare combination of technical ability and people skills that will allow him to excel in his new post.

**Marketing & Outreach Update:** [Attached](#), you will find an update prepared by Vice Chancellor for Communications and Marketing Paul Feist which inventories a broad range of marketing activities spearheaded by the Chancellor's Office. Paul has done a fabulous job growing and coordinating these marketing programs that deal with a broad range of topics from financial aid to career-technical education. It is important to keep in mind that all our work to build effective educational programs is for naught if we don't inform students about these opportunities and get them through the door. I think you will find this update to be informative and useful.

**Integration of Basic Skills, Student Success and Support Program (SSSP), and Student Equity Program (SEP):** In an earlier update, I wrote about efforts in the Chancellor's Office to better integrate and align three of our major student success programs: Basic Skills, SSSP, and SEP. Despite sharing very similar objectives, the three programs have been operated largely in silos, with separate planning, funding, and reporting processes. Too often, this has led to inefficient and disjointed implementation in our office and at the college level. To help us better integrate the programs, we requested a Partnership Resources Team (PRT) to work with us to help analyze the situation and develop options. As a reminder, a PRT is the technical assistance arm of the Institutional effectiveness Partnership Initiative. The PRT, led by Los Rios CCD Chancellor Brian King, did an exceptional job and we are in the process of developing a full action plan that we will

use to overhaul and integrate the programs. Last month, Vice Chancellor for Educational Services Pam Walker [informed the field](#) that the first step in integration would be to suspend the requirement for updated plans for the three programs for the 2016-17 fiscal year, as the plans currently in place will suffice to keep programs operating in the coming year. The time freed up by suspending the next planning cycle will ensure that staff at the colleges and in our office will have time to focus on integration efforts. More details will follow, but I wanted to let you know about our progress. I think it is a great example of how the Chancellor's Office can lead the way in the next phase our system's student success initiative by promoting the integration and sustainability of these efforts. Attached is the memo that Vice Chancellor Walker sent to the field.

**Board of Governors (BOG) Fee Waiver Changes:** At the June meeting of Consultation Council, at the request of a Council member, we discussed [changes](#) to the BOG Fee Waiver Program that will take effect in fall 2016. This program, which waives enrollment fees for low-income students, is the most generous community college financial aid program in the nation, extending to over 60% of California community college students. In 2012, as part of the Student Success Task Force reform package, the BOG endorsed a proposal to, for the first time, require minimum academic progress standards for BOG Fee Waivers. This policy was then incorporated into Senate Bill 1456 (Lowenthal) that created the Student Success and Support Program, established the Student Success Scorecard, and made other related changes to improve completion rates in the California community colleges. The academic progress requirement is intended to incentivize students' performance and also establish minimum expectations for this financial aid benefit. As part of the new policy, colleges are required to implement notification procedures so that students are aware of the requirements, as well as waiver processes that students may utilize if their poor academic performance was the result of exceptional circumstances such as a health crisis, eviction, or other significant event. Under the policy, a student would become ineligible for the BOG Fee Waiver if his/her GPA dropped below a 2.0 for two consecutive semesters, or if he/she failed to complete at least 50% of courses attempted for two consecutive semesters. The new academic requirements are a bit of a culture change for our system, but were an important part of the Student Success Task Force plan that the Board unanimously approved in January of 2012. The new academic requirements for BOG Fee Waiver eligibility will communicate expectations to students and encourage students and colleges to focus on improving academic performance. The Consultation Council materials related to this topic are attached and can also be found at: [BOG Fee Waiver](#)

**TICAS Report:** The Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS), a national financial aid research and advocacy organization, [recently issued a report](#) on federal financial aid administered by community colleges. The report highlights that, nationally, about 10% of community college students attend colleges that do not participate in federal student loan programs. In California, the figure is nearly 13%. The most common reason for colleges opting out of these programs are concerns about student debt and high student loan default rates. While these concerns are understandable, TICAS and our office hold the view that the optimal approach is to make additional financial aid options available to students, along with sufficient guidance and information to help students make smart choices that fit their individual circumstances. In the report, the Chancellor's Office receives recognition for our statewide efforts to support colleges in better administering federal student loan programs and reducing student loan default rates. Kudos to our Dean of Student Services Rhonda Mohr who has been integral to these efforts. The report is attached and can also be accessed at: [TICAS Report](#)

**Adult Education Block Grant (AEBG) Report:** Attached, please find a [recent report](#) issued by the Chancellor's Office on the AEBG Program. This document, jointly produced with the California Department of Education (CDE), is part of ongoing reporting requirements under the statute that established the program. In 2013-14, the Governor and Legislature established the AEBG Program in order to better align and coordinate adult education programs offered by high schools and community colleges. California has a long history of such programs being separately administered by the two systems with little coordination, resulting in duplication and, more often, gaps in services. The new program is still a work in progress, but in many parts of the state the new model is already resulting in improved communication, coordination, and quality of adult education services. Some regions have had greater difficulty adopting the new, coordinated approach, but with time we should see improved collaboration. Our office, along with CDE, is providing technical assistance and support to community colleges and schools as they implement the new model. Vice Chancellor Van Ton-Quinlivan and her Director of Workforce Programs, Debra Jones, have done a remarkable job overseeing the implementation of this important initiative.