

FIRST MONDAY

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES CHANCELLOR BRICE W. HARRIS

Memorandum

DATE: August 4, 2014
TO: California Community College CEOs
FROM: Brice W. Harris, State Chancellor
SUBJECT: First Monday – August 2014

Colleagues,

The following are items of interest and importance for our system, and are provided for your information. If you have comments or concerns on any of these items feel free to email me at bharris@cccco.edu or telephone me at (916) 322-4005.

1. **System-wide Student Success Goals:** As you probably know, at its last meeting, the Board of Governors approved system-wide goals for quantifiable improvement in several key areas, including the volume of students earning certificates, degrees and transferring to four-year institutions. This goal-setting was another of the recommendations of the Student Success Task Force, which the Board approved in January of 2012. The Board's goals seek to increase the completion rate by 2.5 percent (not 2.5 percentage points) each year. We have modeled what such an increase would mean in terms of additional students earning awards and transferring, and have determined that meeting the goals will translate to 227,000 additional awards or transfers over the next decade of cohorts, as the statewide overall completion rate increases from 48.1 percent to 62.8 percent. Individual districts and colleges will not be assigned a local share of this statewide goal, rather, districts are asked to develop goals for improving completion rates that are appropriate for their communities and colleges. To assist districts in the goal setting process, the Chancellor's Office will be issuing relevant background and guidance. However, make no mistake, we need everyone to set goals that will collectively move our state forward. We intend to make the goal of 227,000 additional completers the focus of the Chancellor's Office fall back-to-school messaging next month; Vice Chancellor Feist will be in touch with college PIOs regarding this campaign.
2. **Innovation In Higher Education Fund:** As you may know, the Legislature and Governor approved a \$50 million fund for Innovation in Higher Education. This fund is designed to recognize colleges that make changes which support three state priorities including; increasing the number of bachelor's degrees awarded, allowing students to complete bachelor's degrees in four years, and easing transfer through the state's education system by better recognizing learning that occurs across the state's education segments and elsewhere. Late last week Governor Brown appointed a committee that will determine which campuses receive these awards and the amount of each award. We are fortunate in that one of our own Board of Governors members, Arnoldo Avalos, has been appointed to the group. A copy of the press release announcing Mr. Avalos' appointment and detailing the program is enclosed. We anticipate more details on this program soon, but it appears as if these will be awards which recognize projects and programs that have already been initiated rather than money to be used to start new initiatives.
3. **Step Forward Campaign:** Later this fall as you gear up for spring enrollment, you will be hearing about a statewide awareness campaign designed to inform students about new priority enrollment policies. The campaign developed by the Foundation for California Community Colleges in collaboration with the



Chancellor's Office was funded by the Kresge Foundation and focuses on the importance of students participating in assessment, orientation and education planning activities. The focus of the campaign is a web site (stepforward.cccco.edu) that will be integrated into CCCApply and guides the user to college-specific information about priority registration. High-quality videos filmed on our campuses feature students explaining the value of priority enrollment, and collateral materials such as brochures and posters will be mailed to every college. The campaign is designed to supplement your existing outreach efforts. Staff from the Chancellor's Office communications division and the Foundation have made presentations about the campaign to public information officers and student services professionals over the past several months, and you will hear more about the deployment of this campaign very soon.

4. **Important Chancellor's Office Additions:** I am extremely pleased to announce two key appointments in our office designed to enhance student success and provide support for our colleges. As I have previously mentioned, the Governor and Legislature funded a new Technical Assistance Unit in our office, which includes nine new positions that will be added across the agency, as well as \$2.5 million to be awarded through a contract with one of our districts, to provide one-the-ground support for all our colleges. Theresa Tena will lead the new initiative as Vice Chancellor for Institutional Effectiveness; she will begin her tenure in mid-September. Most of you know Theresa from her most recent role as Vice President and Director of Fiscal Policy with the Community College League of California, and prior to that as Director of Fiscal Services at Solano Community College, Specialist in Fiscal Services at the Chancellor's Office, and Staff Finance Budget Analyst with the Department of Finance. You may also be aware that our office was successful in landing one of only three new Student Success Centers funded by the Kresge Foundation, and the new Executive Director of that important initiative will be Dr. Paul Steenhausen, most recently with the Legislative Analyst's Office where, for the past dozen years, he served as the primary analyst for our system. Paul has extensive knowledge of our student success initiative, and has been a keynote speaker at many constituent conferences. These two additions, together with the changes and additions I announced last month, will make a tremendous difference in our ability to support our colleges and to enhance student success.
5. **Updated Associate Degree for Transfer Report:** Enclosed is the latest Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) report. I am very pleased to see that more than 40 percent of our colleges are at, or above 100 percent, and overall we are at 86 percent of goal. This report will continue to get a great deal of attention, not only from the Board of Governors, but from our external reviewers in the Legislature and elsewhere. I know all of you are working hard to meet your goal, and as always, if you find any discrepancy in this report and what you believe to be the case at your college please call or email me directly. We have staffed up this initiative in our office in anticipation of the large number of degrees we expect to see in the next few months, but please encourage your staff not to wait until the last minute to make their submissions. This project continues to hold tremendous promise for our students as they seek to make a seamless transition from our colleges to the California State University System.
6. **City College of San Francisco:** Because any of our colleges that face closure is of significance to our system, I continue to try to keep you updated on the progress of City College of San Francisco (CCSF). Early last week the college learned that the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) had denied the remand of their termination of accreditation by the ACCJC Appeals Hearing Panel. The panel had remanded the decision back to ACCJC and directed that they consider progress made by the college up to the Hearing Panel meeting in late May of this year. This leaves the college with one additional option within the ACCJC regulations, and last week the college moved to file a request to be placed into restoration status, a new option for colleges attempting to recover their accreditation. That application process will take place this fall and will lead to a Commission decision on whether to allow the college into restoration in January. If they are successful in being placed into restoration, they will have up to two years to complete their recovery and meet the standards. I will continue to keep you updated as developments warrant.
7. **Constitution Day Activities:** At its most recent meeting, the Board of Governors heard a presentation from Dr. Kathleen Jamieson of the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Public Policy Center on the free civics instruction resources available to community colleges. I urge you to share with your faculty the materials found at AnnenbergClassroom.org in advance of Constitution Day on September 17. As Dr. Jamieson pointed out to the BOG, knowledge about our founding document and its relevance to civic engagement is not transmitted through the gene pool, it is imparted by teachers at all levels of American education. The web site is rich with content ranging from videos and course syllabi to links to original source materials. Please take advantage of these materials.