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FIRST MONDAY

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES CHANCELLOR BRICE W. HARRIS

Memorandum

DATE: August 3, 2015
TO: California Community College CEOs
FROM: Brice W. Harris, State Chancellor
SUBJECT: First Monday – August 2015

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 call me at (916) 322-4005.

1. **Birth of a New California Community College:** At their July meeting last week the Board of Governors gave final approval to the 113th California Community College and we all cut a birthday cake for Clovis Community College. The third college in the State Center District, Clovis is a proud addition to the education-oriented community in the central valley. College president Deborah Ikeda was present for the vote and she and her team deserve tremendous credit for many years of hard work leading up to the approval last week. Welcome Clovis Community College!
2. **Accreditation Legislation:** As I've shared with you previously, the accreditation of our community colleges continues to be a contentious issue in the Legislature and in mid-July the Senate Education Committee heard two bills that would impose restrictions and requirements on the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). Assembly Bill 1385 (Ting) would prohibit ACCJC from imposing a special assessment on community colleges for the commission's legal fees for any lawsuit unless there's been an affirmative vote of the majority of the CEOs for all of the colleges. Interestingly enough, this provision would not apply to activities involving private colleges in the state or colleges outside of California. So this is clearly aimed at limiting ACCJC's ability to take legal action against California's community colleges. The other measure, AB 1397 (Ting), would impose additional disclosure, transparency and conflict-of-interest requirements on ACCJC, as well as create a statutory appeals process for colleges that are sanctioned by the commission. While both of these bills were opposed by the chair of the Senate Education Committee (Senator Carol Liu), who viewed them as premature given the pending report from the Board of Governors Accreditation Task Force and the on-going review of ACCJC by the U.S. Department of Education, they nonetheless passed out of the committee on 6-3 votes and are now headed to the Senate Appropriations Committee (AB 1397) and the Senate Floor (AB 1385). I am concerned that the progress of these bills signals the Legislature's deepening frustration with ACCJC and its clear desire to impose state sanctioned limitations on its authority and conduct. In September the Accreditation Task Force I appointed at the request of Consultation will make its report to the Board of Governors. This report will focus additional attention on this issue as well as the Chancellor's Office requirement to respond to the State Auditor's recommendations made to our office earlier this year.
3. **Small College Funding:** The 2015-16 budget includes \$266.7 million as a general-purpose apportionment funding increase beyond growth and COLA. After discussions with the CEOs, Consultation Council, Fiscal Affairs Workgroup, and others we will use the vast majority of these funds to increase the unrestricted operating revenues for all colleges. We will, however, use \$6.2 million from this source to stabilize and support the funding model for our 11 most rural colleges. Specifically, this \$6.2 million will be allocated to increase the rural college Basic Allocation from \$562,282 to \$1,124,565 as of this year. The remaining \$260.5 million will be allocated proportionally across the 113 colleges based on their general-purpose apportionment funding. This is a problem that has long-plagued our smallest colleges and one which should be solved in the current improved funding environment. Further detail on allocations will be distributed early in the fall, but if you have any questions on this specific item feel free to call me directly at 916-322-4005.



4. **Dual Enrollment Legislation Update:** Assembly Bill 288 (Holden) is the Board of Governors sponsored legislation to provide added flexibility to create more opportunities for the dual enrollment of high school students in our colleges. On July 1, AB 288 passed out of the Senate Education Committee on a vote of 7-0. Despite the unanimous approval, the committee did make some changes to the bill that add additional reporting requirements, require a focus on students who are not necessarily college bound and are under-represented in higher education, cap the overall system-wide enrollment of special admits, which is how we classify dual enrollment students, and impose a 5-year sunset, which is a relatively standard provision for the committee. While we were not seeking these amendments, I believe they are workable and do not diminish the overall benefits of the bill. This legislation continues to have broad support among both K-12 and community colleges and is set to be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 17. I know many of you have expressed support for AB 288 with letters to the Legislature and I want to thank you for that assistance; it really does make a difference.
5. **Added Resources for Physical Plant & Instructional Support:** I know you are all thrilled that the 2015-16 Budget Act provided \$100 million for the Physical Plant and Instructional Support program, and the higher education trailer bill, SB 81, provided an additional \$48 million in current year funds. The Physical Plant and Instructional Support funds are available for use until June 30, 2017 and there is no match requirement. Districts have discretion on the distribution of the funds between the physical plant and instructional support components of the program. The projects eligible for funding with the scheduled maintenance funds and have been expanded to include water conservation projects, in addition to the previously eligible scheduled maintenance, hazardous substance abatement, ADA access, and seismic projects. The funding allocations were sent to your districts on July 2, 2015. The \$100 million will be disbursed through the apportionment process starting in July 2015, while disbursement of the \$48 million included in the SB 81 will begin in the first quarter. I know you have waited for this support for many years and I also know you have far more needs than these dollars will cover.
6. **Governor's Executive Order and DSA Landscaping/Irrigation Regulations:** Due to the ongoing drought in California, Governor Brown issued Executive Order B-29-15 requiring an average 25 percent reduction in potable water usage through February 2016. The Division of the State Architect adopted emergency regulations in June and July 2015 pertaining to requirements for landscaping and irrigation in order to generate long-term water savings. The regulations require districts constructing new buildings or additions on community college campuses to replace existing landscaping, equal to 75 percent of the square footage of the building's footprint, with water conserving landscaping and/or the installation of water meters and other water conservation measures. The regulations will be applicable to both state and locally funded capital outlay projects. Districts can use funds from the Physical Plant and Instructional Support program to fund water conservation projects, including replacing water intensive landscaping with drought tolerant landscaping, drip or low-flow irrigation systems, building improvements to reduce water usage, and installation of meters for wells to allow monitoring.
7. **Sustainability Award:** I am proud to report that the Chancellor's Office will be awarded the 2015 California Energy Champions Award by the California Energy Efficiency Industry Council (CEEIC). This award recognizes key businesses and policy leaders in California who have shown excellence in advancing energy efficiency. The staff in our office has a long history of promoting energy efficiency and sustainable practices through the CCC/IOU partnership between the California Community Colleges and the States' four Investor Owned Utilities. In 2012, Chancellor's Office leadership recognized the potential of leveraging the Partnership funding from Proposition 39. This led to a dramatic leap forward in implementing energy efficiency projects on community college campuses. Funding from Proposition 39 and the CCC/IOU Partnership has resulted in the distribution of almost \$78 million in Proposition 39 project funding for efficiency projects to-date. It has delivered 548 projects at our campuses since 2013, representing annual avoided energy costs of over \$10 million.
8. **Foundation STEM Grant Opportunity:** The Foundation for California Community Colleges is pleased to introduce the **Alliance for Innovation**—a program funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) designed to help California Community College STEM students engage in hands-on research that increases economic competitiveness and prepares students for the workforce. Sub-grants of up to \$30,000 are available to teams of community college faculty and students interested in partnering with NSF-funded small business. Projects will assist NSF-funded small business in the commercialization of innovative research. The Foundation for California Community College's experienced team assists with the matchmaking process between colleges and businesses and can assist with the development of compelling and competitive grants. Visit nsf.foundationcccc.org for more information or see that enclosed information sheet.



THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION ALLIANCE FOR INNOVATION PROGRAM FOR STEM FACULTY AND STUDENTS



Advancing STEM Research and Student Opportunity

The California Community Colleges Alliance for Innovation program, which is administered by the Foundation for California Community Colleges (Foundation), is assisting faculty and student research teams in connecting with businesses in their community that are engaged in innovative research and want to support undergraduate STEM studies. California Community College research teams have the opportunity to engage in hands-on research by connecting with a small business working on an NSF-funded project.

Funding Opportunity

Community College research teams in STEM fields can be a part of innovative research and receive up to \$30,000 in funding that advances student learning and has the potential to increase the amount of research being performed overall—a crucial component of success and progress in our

economy. Through this program, your students can be a critical part of helping a business solve challenges that arise in their NSF-funded projects, while developing their own research skills.

How We Can Help

The Foundation's team has connections with eligible businesses and can facilitate the matchmaking process, making it easier for you to connect with the right types of research projects for your students. Our grant specialists are ready to assist businesses in the grant application process, giving your team the best chance at being selected for NSF funding.

Project Background

Research shows that increasing student involvement in STEM fields makes our nation more competitive globally and merits national priority. However, many undergraduate students abandon degrees in STEM fields due to the lack of opportunities to engage in real-world research experiences, traditionally reserved for graduate students. One way to incorporate more active learning approaches in colleges and universities is to involve students in real-world research experiences in the community. NSF supplemental funding is designed to engage undergraduate students in innovative research, providing opportunities for both students and businesses.



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Getting Involved

Visit nsf.foundationccc.org to get started.

The Foundation for California Community Colleges is the official foundation to the California Community Colleges' Board of Governors and Chancellor's Office. The Foundation's mission is to benefit, support, and enhance the missions of the California Community College system, the largest higher education system in the nation. Incorporated in 1998, the Foundation works with Community Colleges and partner organizations to manage donations, grants, programs, and services that drive excellence in education. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit corporation and receives no direct state support.

For more information, visit www.foundationccc.org.