

# FIRST MONDAY

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES CHANCELLOR BRICE W. HARRIS

## Memorandum

**DATE:** March 2, 2015  
**TO:** California Community College CEOs  
**FROM:** Brice W. Harris, State Chancellor  
**SUBJECT:** First Monday – March 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](mailto:bharris@cccco.edu), or telephone me at (916) 322-4005.

1. **Institutional Effectiveness Update:** Our institutional effectiveness efforts have made some significant progress since my communication to you on the subject in January. The Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative has been working briskly to meet the statutory deadlines outlined in the enabling legislation, assemble technical assistance teams, and construct and populate an online professional development clearing house. Statute requires the adoption of a goals framework, goal setting by colleges/districts, and posting of these goals by June 30<sup>th</sup>. This issue was discussed at statewide consultation council. The digest and proposed goals framework are attached for your review. It is important to note the metrics proposed for goal setting are already collected and reported by colleges and districts. As I mentioned back in January, the statutory deadlines will necessitate the system have the appropriate shared governance meetings immediately after the March Board of Governors meeting to ensure approval of the goals framework and the determination of college/district goals. The law requires the college/district goals be posted on the Chancellor's Office web site prior to the start of the 2015-16 fiscal year. We know this deadline is tight and understand that it will be a challenge for many of you, and we are working to provide you as much support as possible. If you have questions, feel free to contact Vice Chancellor Theresa Tena at (916) 327-6887, or [ttena@cccco.edu](mailto:ttena@cccco.edu).
2. **Landmark Agreement with Historically Black Colleges and Universities:** The March Board of Governors meeting will be the venue for a historic agreement between California Community Colleges and a group of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). The HBCUs Transfer Admission Guarantee Program's goal is to increase the transfer numbers of CCC students by developing statewide Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) between the Chancellor's Office and interested HBCUs, with the primary component of the MOU including a transfer admission guarantee. The HBCU Transfer Admission Guarantee Program allows students who have completed an Associate Degree for Transfer (AA-T/AS-T), or similar transfer-level associate degree, to be admitted to an HBCU with junior status and full acceptance of transferrable units. Each MOU additionally provides a guarantee for non-degreed transfer prepared students wishing to transfer with 30 or more transferrable units to be admitted to an HBCU with advance standing. At the time of this writing, nine HBCUs have committed to this initiative. I have attached a sample of the agreement for your information.
3. **Adult Education Report to the Legislature:** I have enclosed the executive summary of the report on Adult Education as required by the 2014 Education trailer bill, Assembly Bill 86, which will go to the Legislature and Administration this week. The bill charged the Chancellor's Office and the California Department of Education to jointly implement an adult education planning process with the shared goal of better serving the educational needs of California's adult learners. This report is the result of more than a year-and-a-half of very intense conversations between our colleges and the K-12 system over the future of adult education delivery in California.



Although I suspect that there will be those who expected much more specific direction in this report, the recommendations do set the stage for a more clearly articulated delivery system and a much more transparent relationship between community colleges and K-12 districts in the delivery of this very important segment of education. Unfortunately, the financial support necessary to actually make this plan a reality may still be sometime away. Although the Governor has recommended an additional \$500 million be invested in these programs, that investment may be, at least temporarily, offset by maintenance of effort at the K-12, which will encumber more than \$300 million for the next year. Of course all of this will be debated in coming months in the Legislature, but I wanted you to see the initial report as quickly as possible.

4. **Differential Funding Resolutions:** In the past few weeks I have received several resolutions passed by some of your local boards related to funding for career technical education programs (CTE). Specifically, the resolutions endorse a differential funding model for CTE. These resolutions have been forwarded to the Board of Governors (BOG) as requested, and in communicating those to the BOG, I have reminded them that their Task Force on Workforce, Job Creation and a Strong Economy is looking at funding for CTE. In fact, an attachment for item 6 below, summarizes the statewide conversations on this subject, and details the desire for another method of funding these high-cost programs. I know you realize that anytime we open conversations about our funding model, as we have done in recent months over the issue of equity, people tend to line up on one side or another of the issue based on how changes in the model might impact their individual college or district. The way we fund CTE programs will certainly be no exception. However, we must find a way to sustain our mission-critical high-cost CTE programs in an environment of revenue volatility. Our boom/bust budgets tend to force us to cut high-cost programs when revenues dramatically decline, and add back classes we can ramp up quickly (which tend not to be CTE classes) when revenues improve. Please ask your boards who are interested in this issue to be patient with the BOG as they seek solutions to this problem through their Task Force. The group should be making recommendations to the BOG in September and at that point I am sure a more robust conversation on funding for CTE will begin in earnest.
5. **Compton Center of El Camino College and City College of San Francisco:** As you know, the Board of Governors has placed Special Trustees in two of our colleges to support their recovery and restoration to fully accredited institutions. There is positive news on both institutions to report. In the past few weeks the Compton Center of El Camino College has filed with the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) for candidacy as Compton College. This has been a long process for Compton and will still require more time, but everyone at El Camino and Compton are to be congratulated for a great deal of hard work designed to put the institution on a pathway to local control. Earlier this week I also announced a new Special Trustee at City College of San Francisco (CCSF) to replace retiring Bob Agrella, who has served with distinction for more than a year as the Special Trustee with Extraordinary Powers. Bob supported the college in its successful application to ACCJC for Restoration status, which will provide an additional two years for the college to meet the accreditation standards. The new Special Trustee for CCSF is Guy Lease, who many of us know from his years of service in California leading Lake Tahoe Community College, serving as an interim for several additional institutions, and also serving as Chair of the CEO Board. In addition to the appointment of Dr. Lease, I also announced our intention to accelerate the timeframe for return of control to the locally-elected Board of Trustees at CCSF. I have been very impressed with the new Board and feel strongly that they should be able to assume increased responsibility for the college in the next few months.
6. **Workforce Task Force Update:** There has been tremendous progress made by the Task Force on Workforce, Job Creation and a Strong Economy since I wrote to you on the subject in January. Many of you participated, along with more than 600 others, in the eleven college conversations held over the past three months. From those conversations five thematic categories have emerged, which the Task Force members will use to help structure their deliberations. They include: workforce data and outcomes; curriculum and instruction; structured career pathways and student support; funding; and regional coordination. I have attached a summary of those themes for your information, but please do not assume that these will ultimately become recommendations from the Task Force. The Task Force will certainly have the opportunity to consider these themes, but will also receive input from multiple other sources and represent the varied interests of the colleges and workforce/employer community.
7. **PPIC Report on Higher Education:** I have enclosed a recent report from the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) on higher education. The report does an excellent job chronicling the challenge faced by California as we all work to close the skills gap. Although I would tend to agree with most of the recommendations found on the last two pages, I must admit to being skeptical about the final recommendation on the creation of a new coordinating body for higher education.