

FIRST MONDAY

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES CHANCELLOR BRICE W. HARRIS

Memorandum

DATE: May 5, 2014
TO: California Community College CEOs
FROM: Brice W. Harris, State Chancellor
SUBJECT: First Monday – May 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@ccccc.edu or telephone me at 916-322-4005.

1. **May Revision:** On May 14, Governor Brown will release his *May Revision* which will provide updates and adjustments to his January budget proposal. The documents will provide new revenue estimates and corresponding increases, or decreases in proposed spending. Most budget watchers expect a somewhat rosier revenue forecast, which would most likely result in some additional funding for K-12 and community colleges as part of Proposition 98. We expect that the broad outlines of the Governor's January budget proposal, including proposed investments in access, the Student Success and Support Program, and equity plans, to be largely maintained in the *May Revision*, however, we do not know how the Governor's proposed "Rainy Day Fund" might impact his proposals. Dan Troy, Vice Chancellor for Fiscal Policy, will provide full information on the *May Revision* once it has been released.
2. **Legislation Update:** As you know, we are carefully watching several pieces of legislation currently pending in both houses relating to accreditation, the community college baccalaureate, and concurrent enrollment. The bill that would provide financial stabilization for City College of San Francisco (SB 965) was passed out of Senate Education, but was amended to reduce the duration of additional stabilization from four years to three, and additional reporting requirements were included. Similar bills in both houses (SB 1068 and AB 1942) that could involve the Board of Governors in accreditation have been passed out of their respective education committees, but more changes in those bills are expected. Our Board of Governors sponsored bill on dual/concurrent enrollment (AB 1451) was passed out of the Assembly Education Committee unanimously late last week with amendments that would ensure that no courses we taught on high school campuses would incentivize the high schools to use our courses as a way to cut their own curriculum, which certainly makes good sense. Finally, the bill that would authorize our colleges to pilot offering the Bachelor's degree was passed out of the Senate Education Committee on a unanimous vote last week, with some additional amendments that would narrow the pilots to fifteen colleges in fifteen districts, and prohibit any duplication with other public colleges in the state. I want to thank the numerous people who have taken their time to travel to Sacramento in recent weeks to testify on these and other bills affecting community colleges. Our success in both supporting and opposing legislation is always enhanced when the field weighs in with their legislators.



3. **Voter Registration:** Last week I received a very complimentary letter from Secretary of State Debra Bowen regarding your collective efforts to register our students to vote when they are registering for college. Collectively you registered to vote nearly 6,500 students statewide last year. The Secretary was very appreciative of your efforts, as am I. As we all remember, young voters (many of them our students) were credited with the passage of Proposition 30, which provided much-needed support for our system. Please encourage your staff to continue to support this valuable effort at ensuring that our democracy thrives through the next generation of voting Californians.
4. **Cal Grant Support for our Students:** I wanted to remind you to encourage your financial aid staff to work to ensure that our students receive the Cal Grant financial aid they have been awarded. The California Student Aid Commission has offered to help us achieve this goal which, as you know, is often the linchpin for enabling our low-income students to enhance their student success. According to the Commission, some of our colleges are not processing and paying Cal Grants to all eligible students. Commission Executive Director, Diana Fuentes-Michel has offered to discuss specific Commission support that can be offered to individual colleges and districts. She has asked me to encourage you to contact her directly at 916-464-8271 or at dmichel@csac.ca.gov if you would like to discuss further assistance. The Cal Grant funds paid directly to students are essential in helping them meet the significant costs related to living and attending college. Too often these costs are overlooked in the discussions of our comparatively low fees and generous fee waivers.
5. **Latest Associate Degrees for Transfer Summary:** As I promised when meeting with both the Northern and Southern California CEO groups, I have enclosed another update on the Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADTs), which came out last week. As you can see, we are now at 77% of goal, with nearly 1,250 new degrees. At the CEO meetings several of you suggested that we separate the column on the report titled "Total ADTs Certified as In Development" to show which ones are in our office under review and which have been sent back to the colleges for further work or have yet to be submitted. Our office will make that change, which will appear on the report produced later this month. I continue to appreciate the work all of you are doing on this important project. As I mentioned earlier, if any of you think our office is not responding adequately to your submissions, please send me an email detailing your concerns and I will follow up on our end.
6. **State Facilities Bond:** Although we continue to hear that the Governor is opposed to a statewide education facilities bond, there is currently legislation (AB 2235 - Buchanan) pending that would put one on the November ballot, and there are reports of increasing support in the Legislature. As one of our CEO colleagues told me recently, "timing for a statewide bond is not always right" but that does not mean we should not let our trustees and our legislators know our facility needs. Your raising the issue will help build momentum for such an initiative, and as we all know, this is both about the need for facilities in our system, as well as helping to put Californians back to work in the construction of those facilities.
7. **Uncertified Buildings Now Online:** Recently you all received a communication from Fred Harris, Assistant Vice Chancellor of College Finance and Facilities Planning, regarding the new Department of State Architect online access to our uncertified buildings. I want to echo Fred's congratulations to all of you for the tremendous efforts you have made in recent years to reduce the size of our list of problem buildings. Although I have not attached the list here, I want to underscore Fred's concern that those of you who have buildings on the list address those buildings quickly. The exposure to our districts from uncertified buildings is great, and the public exposure in the event of a catastrophe are even greater, to say nothing of the potential for injury to our staff and students. Most of these problems were not the making of those of us in leadership now, but regardless, they must be solved.
8. **Personal Note:** In the past week I had one of those unexpected encounters with the medical profession that none of us likes. The details are not important, but what is important is how many of our former students I encountered during my tour of the ER and UC Davis Medical Center. More than half of the medical professionals that attended to me started, and/or completed their medical education at one of our colleges. I consider my very brief and successful stay to be the ultimate in educational accountability (even more important than the Scorecard). Thank you for what you do each and every day for our students.