

	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17

# FIRST MONDAY

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES CHANCELLOR BRICE W. HARRIS

## Memorandum

**DATE:** September 1, 2014  
**TO:** California Community College CEOs  
**FROM:** Brice W. Harris, State Chancellor  
**SUBJECT:** First Monday – September 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](mailto:bharris@cccco.edu), or telephone me at (916) 322-4005.

1. **Rollout of Student Success Goals:** Last week we held a press event at East Los Angeles College to announce the statewide goals for improved student success recently approved by the Board of Governors (press release and coverage enclosed). The event was very successful and the resulting coverage across the state helped again focus the public on our efforts to improve student success. I want to thank Los Angeles Community College District Chancellor, Francisco Rodriguez, Board of Trustees President, Scott Svonkin and campus President Marvin Martinez for their tremendous support of the activity; it was another good day for California community colleges. As I mentioned in my update last month, 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. Meeting the goal of increasing the total number of completions by 227,247 will only happen if we all work together. It is clear that all our colleges are behind this effort, and as a result, I am confident the numbers will move in a positive direction. Thank you all again for your support and hard work on the success of our students.
2. **Community College Baccalaureate:** The community college Baccalaureate took two significant steps closer to reality in California last week when both the Assembly and Senate passed the bill and sent it on to the Governor for his consideration. We certainly cannot take the Governor's support for granted and are reaching out to the Administration to express our support for the legislation and I would encourage all of you to let the Governor know your opinion as well. There are many who have worked hard on this bill, but I want to especially thank Senator Marty Block for his leadership, and San Diego Community College District Chancellor, Constance Carroll for her tireless efforts as our chief internal system advocate and driver. The Governor is expected to consider the legislation in the next few weeks, so don't be bashful if you have an opinion.
3. **Funding for CTE in 2014-15 Budget:** As you know, the 2014-15 budget included a \$50M CTE Enhancement Fund of one-time money for our colleges to develop, enhance, retool, and expand quality CTE offerings that build upon existing community college regional capacity and respond to regional labor market needs. These funds are intended to support the employment needs of the regional economy with budget language prescribing its allowable uses (see FAQ at <http://bit.ly/V1WPsv>). Sixty percent of the funds will be distributed based on a formula that factors in CTE FTES, total FTES, and number of colleges. The remaining 40% will be used to incentivize multi-college collaboration. These funds must be spent by March 16, 2016. This month, each regional consortium will broadcast labor market research to inform investment decisions for these funds, and subsequent to that, colleges will submit their online application to access funds. The CTE Regional Consortia in your area will



- outline this process via a webinar. We have conducted a number of field listening sessions to inform this process, and you should feel free to contact Vice Chancellor Van Ton-Quinlivan at [vtquinlivan@cccco.edu](mailto:vtquinlivan@cccco.edu) if you need assistance in this process.
4. **Campus Sexual Assault and Safety Issues:** I have enclosed a recent update on Campus Sexual Assault and Safety Issues from Molly Broad, President of the American Council on Education (ACE). President Broad has provided information on pending legislation on this subject titled the **Campus Accountability and Safety Act (CASA)**. ACE is currently seeking comments from the field on Senate Bill 2692 authored by Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO). The enclosed analysis provides the early feedback ACE has received from colleges and universities. Much of that input has been positive, but some reservations have been expressed regarding specific implementation of the legislation. I encourage you to review this document and consider the implications for your college and to provide any input to ACE relative to the possible adoption of this legislation. I know many of you are members of ACE, and for those of you who are not, I encourage you to consider joining. In addition, California Senator Barbara Boxer has introduced the Survivor Outreach and Support Campus Act (S. 2695) which would require all federally funded colleges to appoint a victim's advocate charged with supporting survivors of campus sexual assault. The senator has followed up her bill with letters to me, University of California President Janet Napolitano, California State University Chancellor Tim White, and AICCU President Kristen Soares asking us to voluntarily carry out the provisions of her bill. This is an issue that I expect the Board of Governors to discuss in some detail at their upcoming retreat.
  5. **Restoring Access:** Although very premature at this point, several of you have told me that your enrollment is beginning to recover. As you know, thanks to Proposition 30, we have received funding to add back classes for approximately 120,000 of the more than 500,000 we lost during the great recession. Although we still have a long way to go to recover the students who were shut out due to the rationing we were forced to implement, I am confident that our numbers will rebound quickly as we begin to serve the pent-up demand for classes. Now that we have some resources to support access, some of you have expressed concerns over the repeatability rules implemented by the Board of Governors in 2009. Although I certainly understand the pressures some of you are facing from former avocational students who would like to again enroll in courses for personal development, the Legislature and Administration have continued to signal to us that they want to see our enrollment restored by providing the classes necessary for students to complete degrees, certificates and transfer. I feel strongly that we will continue to receive access dollars from the Legislature and Administration in the coming years to support the hundreds of thousands of students who desperately need an education only if we target those access dollars to our core mission strands of basic skills, transfer and CTE. However, I do believe in our community service mission, and we will be looking at ways to support those students, courses and programs in the near future.
  6. **Cohort Default Rates:** Late last month I attended a meeting in Washington D.C. representing our colleges as a member of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Task Force on the Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. As part of that conversation the subject of the impending release of the Student Loan Cohort Default Rate (CDR) was discussed. Unfortunately there are eighteen of our colleges who had default rates in excess of 25% in the past year. As we all know having a default rate in excess of 30% for three years can result in a college's loss of PELL grant support for students. Although it appears as if the number of our colleges that may fall into this category will be minimal, several of you have expressed concerns to me about the future considering how few of these loans most of our colleges actually make. Colleges are not exempt from violating the 30% rule if they have a small number of loans, but can avoid sanction by using the Participation Rate Index appeal process, which takes into account the percent of borrowers out of the total enrollment of students who attend at least half-time. Over the past year our office has provided support to colleges attempting to reduce their default rate, including consultant services and several helpful tools that have resulted in lowering the expected CDR of six colleges that had been in danger of hitting the 30% in this upcoming release. Our Communications Office and financial aid staff are working on an op-ed to help colleges respond to publicity around the CDRs. In addition, we are very close to rolling out a suite of financial literacy products offered by the National Endowment for Financial Education that will not only help students who take out loans, but that can be implemented across campus as part of your student success efforts.
  7. **Minority Male Community College Collaborative (M2C3):** I wanted to remind all of you of the upcoming webinar titled *"Supporting Men of Color in the Community Colleges: Teaching and Learning Strategies for Classroom Faculty"* that will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. Friday, September 12, 2014. We are all aware of the challenges faced by our male students of color and this webinar is designed to help provide our faculty with promising strategies for these students. Please let your faculty know that they can still register for the program online at [https://sdsueducation.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_24vMikLMh2z5tfn&Q\\_JFE=0](https://sdsueducation.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_24vMikLMh2z5tfn&Q_JFE=0).