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FIRST MONDAY

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES CHANCELLOR BRICE W. HARRIS

Memorandum

DATE: January 5, 2015
TO: California Community College CEOs
FROM: Brice W. Harris, State Chancellor
SUBJECT: First Monday – January 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 telephone me at (916) 322-4005.

1. **Taskforce on Workforce Job Creation and a Strong Economy:** Just before the end of the year, we announced the membership of the *Task Force on Workforce Job Creation and a Strong Economy*. I have enclosed that list and want to especially thank CEOs Sunita Cooke, president/superintendent of MiraCosta College, who will chair the group, Carole Goldsmith, president of West Hills College and Bill Scroggins, president of Mt. San Antonio College for their willingness to serve. The group is a powerful representation of our system and of the state employer/workforce community, and I am excited about the potential for a great outcome. Many others of you have been heavily involved in hosting and leading college conversations and working over the past several years on the *Doing What Matters for Jobs and the Economy* initiative, which was the precursor to the task force. I have been very heartened by the early themes coming out of the college conversations. It is clear that our faculty and CTE leaders have strong and constructive opinions about the future of workforce education in our colleges. We have provided numerous opportunities throughout the timeline of the task force for everyone to provide input into this process, and I hope each of you will take advantage of those opportunities. Any of you should also feel free to call me directly at any time if you feel your opinions are not being heard.
2. **Transfer Degrees:** You did it! I have enclosed the end of December report on the Associate Degrees for transfer, and as you can see, we exceeded our system goal of 100 percent. Some of your colleges far exceeded your individual goals and the vast majority of our colleges met their goals. We will make some final adjustments to this chart before it goes to the Board at their January meeting, so if you see anything in the chart that concerns you, please drop me an email and we will verify the information. I do not say often enough how much I appreciate your leadership on this and the other numerous initiatives we are undertaking as a system. Having served as a college and district CEO, I know firsthand how many balls you are juggling, so I appreciate even more your determination to help us live up to our promise to the Board of Governors, and more importantly to serve our students with a more seamless pathway to transfer.
3. **Community College Baccalaureate:** The interest in the pilot community college bachelor's degree has been tremendous. However, many of you who have expressed interest have said the initial deadline is too quick for your college to adequately prepare and respond. I certainly understand this and, as I said previously, if we are unable to recommend fifteen pilots to the Board of Governors in January that meet the various criteria of the legislation, or if there are colleges that are selected who later decide they cannot offer the program, we will have another round of applications. For those of you who are planning to apply in the initial round, I would remind you that the application is very important and it will constitute the majority of the basis for our recommendation to the Board. The applying college has the initial responsibility to assure no duplication with CSU or UC as is called for in the legislation, and the labor market demand and demonstrated viability of the program are very important parts of the application. I have enclosed a great column by Dan Walters of the Sacramento Bee on this subject.



4. **Institutional Effectiveness:** You will recall the 2014-15 budget provided our office with 9 positions and \$2.5 million in local assistance funds to; develop indicators of student success, disseminate best practices at community colleges, and to promote improvements in institutional effectiveness. The Board of Governor's (BOG) awarded the local assistance funds to College of the Canyons in November and Vice Chancellor Tena and her staff are working briskly to meet the statutory deadlines outlined in the enabling legislation. The deadlines require each college/district to adopt a goals framework and the Chancellor's Office post that framework on its web site prior to the start of the 2015-16 fiscal year. The BOG will consider the framework of indicators focused on accreditation, fiscal viability, student outcomes and compliance with state and federal regulations at their March 2015 meeting. The statutory timeline for this activity is ambitious and the system will need to plan to have the appropriate shared governance meetings immediately after the March BOG meeting to ensure district goals/targets are transmitted to the Chancellors Office in May/June for posting on the Chancellor's Office web site prior to the start of the 2015-16 fiscal year. If you have questions, feel free to contact Vice Chancellor Theresa Tena at (916) 327-5887, or ttena@ccccc.edu.
5. **CAL Chamber Presentation:** In December I was flattered to be given the opportunity to make a 40 minute presentation and answer questions before the Board of Directors of the California Chamber of Commerce. It is the first time California community colleges have ever had that opportunity and I took full advantage of updating the nearly 70 civic and business leaders on the issues of access and success, workforce development, the Bachelor's degree, and transfer. It was a very good opportunity and I received numerous positive comments from members of the board, many of whom had attended one of our colleges and/or had immediate family members who have attended. All three California public higher education system CEOs are on this board, and to have us given the first opportunity to make a report to the board was a great testament to the work all of you are doing at the local level.
6. **Staffing Changes in the Chancellor's Office:** Just before the end of the year I made some leadership changes in the Chancellor's Office of which you should be aware. Executive Vice Chancellor Patrick Perry is currently on leave and the employees in the Technology, Research and Management Information (TRIS) unit are now reporting to Deputy Chancellor Skinner. To better manage the workload in Erik's portfolio, I have taken on the oversight of our legal department. As many of you are aware, at the end of last year after more than three decades of dedicated service, Vice Chancellor of Student Services, Linda Michalowski retired. In light of where we are in completing the Student Success Initiative, I plan to fill that post with an interim Vice Chancellor for 2015 to complete the recommendations of the task force. Finally, we are nearing the end of what we expect to be a successful search for a new general counsel. As is the case in most of your organizations, staffing and leadership are seldom constant, but these numerous vacancies provide us the opportunity to build a stronger Chancellor's Office for the future.
7. **Registered Apprenticeship College Consortium:** I recently spoke with Secretary of Labor Tom Perez regarding the Registered Apprenticeship College Consortium (RACC) and the increasing support for apprenticeship training as a strategy for student and workforce success. The US Department of Labor (USDOL) and the US Department of Education collaborated to design RACC in order to ease the way for journeymen who have already completed an apprenticeship to reenter a community college and earn a degree. Becoming a member of RACC will help your college attract these journeymen and increase your completion rates. With the recent release of the \$100 million American Apprenticeship Initiative solicitation from the USDOL, and the expectation for additional funding for the Pre-Apprenticeship Initiative, we expect to see even more focus on apprenticeship as a training method that supports employers and leads to student success. More information on RACC and how to become a member can be found at www.doleta.gov/oa/racc.cfm. Seven of our colleges are already members of RACC.
8. **CollegeBuys Program:** I have previously mentioned the *CollegeBuys* Program of the Foundation for California Community Colleges, but in this mailing I have enclosed a new packet of information on the program, and I encourage you to review it. The program provides students, faculty, and staff access to essential educational software through partnerships with industry leading software and technology companies such as Microsoft and Adobe. *CollegeBuys* offers discounts of up to 75% on software products, saving millions of dollars for our faculty, staff and students every year. The enclosed packet contains promotional materials, a guide with ideas on how best to use them around campus, and an order form should you require more. Please note that Adobe discounts are only available to eligible colleges. Please check the Adobe flyer for eligible colleges. If your college is not listed as an eligible college, please contact Keetha Mills at kmills@foundationccc.org to learn more about how your college may become eligible for discounts from Adobe. Please help us spread the word about these valuable offerings.