

FIRST MONDAY

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES CHANCELLOR BRICE W. HARRIS

Memorandum

DATE: July 6, 2015
TO: California Community College CEOs
FROM: Brice W. Harris, State Chancellor
SUBJECT: First Monday – July 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. **Final Budget:** I am certain that you all share my excitement over what is arguably the best budget our system has seen in more than two decades. The more than one billion dollar increase for 2015-16 will allow us to serve more Californians and provide continued support to our initiatives in student success and equity. Of importance to all our colleges are core funding improvements and payment of backlogged mandates. This budget also includes targeted resources for basic skills education, our new Institutional Effectiveness unit, full-time faculty, restoration of EOPS, deferred maintenance/instructional equipment and completely pays off our remaining apportionment deferrals. Although I could go into much more detail about the good things this budget provides, I will simply say that we should all express our sincere gratitude to the Governor and Legislature for fulfilling the promise of Proposition 98 under intense pressure to spend some of the state's increasing revenues on other priorities. We are all quick to express our concerns to our elected leaders when we feel our system is not being adequately supported, so let us be equally quick to write those letters of thanks and let them know how much we appreciate their tremendous support this year. I would not be doing my job if I did not also remind all of us that these tremendous revenue swings we are currently experiencing on the up side are likely to turn in the other direction within the next few years. Now is certainly the time to prepare for our STRS and PERS increases and to repair the damage done to our core operations during the great recession.
2. **Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative Update:** I wanted to provide an update on our Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative effort. The initiative monitors indicators of student success, makes partnership resources teams available to the system, and disseminates best practices at community colleges. Earlier this month, Vice Chancellor Theresa Tena presented to the ACCJC Commission regarding the purpose and resources available to the system via institutional effectiveness. The Commissioners were very supportive of the initiative and the overall goal of reducing the number of accreditation sanctions. Colleges/districts were required to adopt a goals framework and set goals by June 15th. The response by colleges/districts has been unprecedented – all colleges have completed the statutory requirement! As I mentioned in the item above, the other positive news related to the initiative was the strong support by the Administration and the Legislature in their \$15 million augmentation included in the Budget Act. I have attached a one page explanation of the initiative and if you have questions, feel free to contact Vice Chancellor Tena directly at (916) 327-6887, or ttena@cccco.edu.
3. **Workforce Task Force Update:** The draft report of the Board of Governor's Strong Workforce Task Force is now available for public comment. Although all comments are due by July 15th via the web, I urge you to call your CEO Representatives Sunny Cooke (chair), Bill Scroggins, and Carole Goldsmith with your feedback. The draft can be found at: <http://doingwhatmatters.cccco.edu/StrongWorkforce/DraftReport.aspx#toc>. It is organized around the themes identified through the regional meetings that many of you attended, and reflects the voices of more than 1,200 participants both from within the system, and external. Background papers were authored by experts on each of these themes as required reading for Task Force. The papers included; Workforce Data &



Outcomes, Curriculum & Instructors, Structured Pathways & Student Support, Regional Coordination, and Funding. The background papers are available at:

<http://doingwhatmatters.cccco.edu/StrongWorkforce/ReadingList.aspx>. The last meeting of the Task Force will be on July 29th, followed by two Wrap-up Town Halls on August 25th and 27th to communicate the Task Force recommendations. There will be discussions at the July and September Consultation Council meetings before initial presentation to the Board of Governors in September and consideration of the recommendations for possible adoption in November.

4. **California Drought Relief Employment Training Program:** I have enclosed a brochure that details a wonderful example of how responsive our colleges are during times of crisis. This brochure highlights ten programs related to retraining and upgrading the skills of workers negatively impacted by the drought, especially in the central valley of California. The programs are located at six of our colleges in that region and include high-demand areas like Certified Agricultural Irrigation Specialist, Food Safety Technician, Logistics Technician, Water/Wastewater Plant Operator and Qualified Application License. The program is funded by drought-aid legislation and is designed to support both workers and employers. The Doing What MATTERS for Jobs and the Economy network quickly mobilized to connect our colleges when this contract education opportunity came out. We all know that this drought is having a devastating impact on our state, and it is great to see our colleges directly involved in dealing with the crisis. I have enclosed the English version of the publication, which is also available in Spanish.
5. **Gift Video Included:** I am pleased to enclose a DVD that masterfully traces the vision and legacy of a great Californian who did so much to build our systems of public higher education. The granddaughter of Gov. Pat Brown, Sascha Rice, is an award-winning filmmaker who produced a personal and authoritative look at the first Governor Brown. Through her eyes, and through insights gleaned in interviews with giants of journalism and politics, Ms. Rice paints a vivid portrait of this remarkable risk-taker, statesman and humanitarian. Ms. Rice has graciously made the video available to all of our colleges. I hope you will share it with your history faculty and see that it finds a place in your campus library. "Four Stars" is how the *Los Angeles Times* described "California State of Mind: The Legacy of Pat Brown." And Christopher Lewis of the American University Library, said, "It's a highly recommended purchase for every library in California and any university with government and/or American history departments." If you would like additional copies, please contact Vice Chancellor Paul Feist.
6. **General Counsel Appointment:** By now I am sure most of you know that Thuy Thi Nguyen has agreed to accept an inter-jurisdictional exchange from the Peralta Community College District for the next year to serve as Interim General Counsel in our office. Thuy is well-respected throughout our system and will be a tremendous asset over the next year. As you know, she most recently served with distinction as the Interim CEO of the Community College League of California. One of her first jobs will be to fill the attorney vacancies we have in our legal unit and begin rebuilding that important part of the Chancellor's Office. She began her tenure on July 1st.
7. **New CollegeBuys Contracts to Support Your Colleges:** The Foundation for California Community Colleges, through its CollegeBuys program, is announcing three new contracts designed to help optimize business operations at our colleges. These contracts—with *PlanetBids*, *Adobe EchoSign*, and *iContracts* – are aimed at automating and streamlining workflow while ensuring compliance. *PlanetBids* is a comprehensive, modular eProcurement system that enables colleges to efficiently manage their bids, vendors, contracts, and certificates while complying with Public Contract Code; the system has processed millions of bids since 2000. *Adobe EchoSign* works to provide secure electronic signature capability for administrative documents related to legal, human resources, and finance functions. Finally, *iContracts* provides a cloud-based contract management solution that tracks the life-cycle of agreements—from processing contract requests and approvals to archiving. To access additional information on these offerings and about the CollegeBuys program, go to: collegebuys@foundationccc.org
8. **Inmate Education Grant Program:** In the past few weeks we have finalized complex negotiations with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the Department of Finance on an exciting new project made possible by SB 1391 (Hancock, 2014), which established a grant program to expand and improve education programs for incarcerated students offered by California community colleges. The legislation includes a total of \$1.6 million for four local grants. These grants will be used for one-time program development and implementation to educate incarcerated students with the goal of improving post-release outcomes. The grants have been awarded to four colleges including: Lassen College, Chaffey College, Antelope Valley College and Folsom Lake College.