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FIRST MONDAY

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES CHANCELLOR BRICE W. HARRIS

Memorandum

DATE: January 4, 2016
TO: California Community College CEOs
FROM: Brice W. Harris, State Chancellor
SUBJECT: First Monday – January 2016

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. **January Board of Governors Meeting:** Later this month the Board of Governors (BOG) will meet in Sacramento and the agenda for the meeting is as full as always. I will present two reports to the Board, one on the State of the System and the other on the completion of the system strategic plan. Both these reports detail the tremendous work all of you have done over the past few years, and specifically in 2015. The news is quite good overall with access returning to our system and many of the student success indicators on the rise. However, we are still struggling to see our overall completion numbers increase, even though the building blocks for completion, like course completion, English and math remediation, the completion of 30 units and persistence are all on the rise. The printed and web report will be distributed to the field soon after the Board meeting. At this BOG meeting the Board will also begin the process of recruiting and ultimately identifying the next system Chancellor. This meeting will also be the Board's first in their new quarters on the sixth floor of our office building. The new Board room and adjoining space is very professional and reflective of our system. In the lobby as you exit the elevators is a beautiful montage of the logos of all your colleges and photos of our students and staff surrounding our system seal. I hope all of you will stop by our office when your travels bring you to Sacramento to see the space and find your college(s) on the wall of fame.
2. **Accreditation:** Later this week representatives of the Accreditation Task Force are scheduled to meet with the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) as part of the ACCJC meeting here in Sacramento. This conversation is part of the process the Task Force is undertaking to advise me on the recommendation I will make to the Board of Governors in March in response to their direction for the system to undertake a new model of accreditation for our system. Although I have spoken with several of you over the past two months on this issue, you should feel free to call or email me if you have further thoughts on this important topic. The Board of Governors in directing me to develop a recommendation did not limit our options. However, they made it quite clear that they believe our current system is not serving our colleges adequately. As I mentioned in the December First



Monday, the alternatives to our current system include a significant change in ACCJC, or seeking a new accreditor for our colleges. As college and district CEOs you are the member institutional representatives of ACCJC, so your opinions are extremely important to me as I prepare my recommendation. As the Task Force report presented to the BOG documented, this issue has been under discussion for nearly a decade and the addition of the authority to offer the bachelor's degree suggests an evolving future for the accreditation of our colleges. I have enclosed for your information, testimony that was delivered on my behalf at the recent meeting of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) in Washington, DC.

3. **"Skills Builders" Metric:** Later this month we will roll out details of a new Student Success Scorecard metric that finally will allow us to measure the success of students who come to our colleges and take one or two career technical education courses to get ahead in the workplace. We have all been long frustrated with the inability to capture the return on investment for these students, who don't earn a certificate or degree, yet who leave our colleges with enhanced skills that translate into increased earnings. Over the past three years, researchers in our system have developed what we call the "skills builders" metric. In the 2012-13 academic year, nearly 93,000 students met the definition of being a skills builder, which generally is a student who finishes one or two intermediate or advanced career technical education classes. The median wage gain for these students was 15 percent, or \$4,431. For that year alone, this translated into \$540 million in wages for these students and the California economy. I think you will agree that this is a tremendous return on investment for students who previously have been counted as "non-completers." The new metric will be included in the Scorecard update in March.
4. **White House Invitation:** I am pleased to report that on Dec. 17, the White House National Economic Council hosted a 15-person roundtable to receive advice regarding the Administration's job-training policy and priorities for next year. One of the panel members was our own Vice Chancellor Van Ton-Quinlivan. The Administration was quite impressed with the progress of the California community college system in the last two years including our identification of "skills builders" as a success metric for workforce training, the development of our Launchboard data, which they are emulating in their federal dashboard, our increased investments in apprenticeship as a training model, and our success in restructuring training to get people into work, particularly in the information and communications technology/digital media industry sector. Although California has traditionally trailed much of the rest of the country in workforce and career technology education, our colleges have recently moved ahead of other states on many fronts, thanks to the leadership of our Board of Governors in supporting the Strong Workforce Task Force, Doing What MATTERS for Jobs & the Economy, and the Student Success Initiative. We believe this year the administration is likely to place added focus on data and will continue to call for job-driven training delivered regionally.
5. **City College of San Francisco:** On Dec. 31, 2015 the Chancellor's Office returned full authority for operation of City College of San Francisco to the locally elected Board of Trustees. As you will recall, we had returned the oversight of the college to the local Board in July of last year, but retained the authority through our Special Trustee to "stay and rescind" their decisions. As of Jan. 1, 2016 our Special Trustee, Dr. Guy Lease, will only operate in an advisory capacity to the Board and Chancellor. I want to thank the City College Board of Trustees, faculty and staff for the tremendous work they have undertaken in less than three years to allow the State to return the college to local control. The college continues to make impressive progress, and I am increasingly confident that they will have a successful accreditation review later this year. I want to also thank the many members of the Chancellor's Office staff who have dedicated countless hours in support of the college, including Deputy Chancellor Erik Skinner, and Vice Chancellors Paul Feist, Vince Stewart, Dan Troy and Pamela Walker.