

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

1102 Q STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95811-6549
(916) 322-4005
<http://www.cccco.edu>



Memorandum

DATE: May 1, 2016
TO: California Community College CEOs
FROM: Erik Skinner, Acting Chancellor
SUBJECT: First Monday – May 2016

The following are items of interest and importance for our system and are provided for your information. If you have questions or concerns about any of these items, feel free to call the Chancellor's Office at (916) 322-4005.

- 1. Greetings:** I transitioned into my role as Acting Chancellor on April 2, 2016, and this is my inaugural "First Monday" communication to our system's CEOs. I appreciate the confidence that the Board of Governors has shown by appointing me to this role and will endeavor to provide the leadership and direction to keep the ship steady and moving full speed ahead. Thank you to all of you who have reached out to share your support for me in this new role. Through these updates, I will keep you informed about significant issues and developments of importance to the California Community Colleges. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns about anything you read in these monthly updates. My office number is (916) 322-4005 and email address is eskinner@cccco.edu.
- 2. CEO Summit on CTE:** The Community College League of California, working in partnership with the Chancellor's Office, recently announced an upcoming meeting for all CEOs to learn about and discuss career technical education (CTE) programs. The event will focus on the new \$200 million Strong Workforce Program that will be established in the 2016-17 State Budget. This initiative, the result of a recommendation by the Board of Governors' Strong Workforce Task Force, will be a tremendous opportunity for our system to expand and improve our workforce training programs. The CEO-only event will be held in Oakland in August and will help ensure that CEOs are informed and prepared to lead the successful implementation of the new program. See attached flyer for more details.
- 3. Partnership Resource Teams:** The Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative (IEPI) is a dynamic new program being led by Vice Chancellor for Institutional Effectiveness Theresa Tena in collaboration with district partners Santa Clarita CCD and Chabot-Las Positas CCD. The core mission of IEPI is to identify and disseminate effective program models to help our colleges improve student success rates and other aspects of institutional effectiveness. IEPI employs regional trainings, online professional development, and other strategies to advance this mission. One of the most powerful strategies used is the Partnership Resource Team (PRT)—a team of six to eight experts, comprised of current and former community college administrators, faculty, and staff, that is deployed to provide targeted assistance to a college to help improve its performance. PRTs are sent only in response to a letter of interest from a college, which has helped the initiative to build a culture based on continuous improvement, rather than compliance. So far, 46 colleges have had PRTs or are scheduled to receive one, with much of the assistance focused on improving integrated planning and the use of student learning outcomes. In a somewhat novel twist, the Chancellor's Office recently requested a PRT to visit our office and help us develop options to better integrate and align the programs we operate—specifically the Student Success

and Support Program, the Student Equity Program, and the Basic Skills Initiative. We are hopeful that the PRT process will help us develop improved policies and procedures that will yield better program results at our colleges and more efficient program administration in our office. I would note that our PRT will be led by Brian King, Chancellor of Los Rios Community College district. We are embracing the opportunity to innovate and improve, while modeling this new program for the colleges. The initial PRT visit to the Chancellor's Office will take place on May 4 with two more visits to follow in coming months. Attached is an excerpt from the CCCC request for a PRT which outlines the areas of focus for the review.

4. **Board of Governors Fee Waiver Report:** Due to increased state and national attention to the important issue of college affordability, our office recently prepared a research brief comparing California's Board of Governors Fee Waiver program to financial aid programs in other states. That brief, authored by Dr. Stacy Fisher, provides a rigorous analysis of this program that allows over 60 percent of our students to attend college without paying any fees at all. The brief finds that California's fee waiver program is the most comprehensive and generous of any state financial aid program in the nation. The report can be found at: <http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/Portals/0/Reports/2016-CCCCO-BOG-FeeWaiver-Report-final.pdf>.
5. **Professional Learning Network Launch:** As Chancellor Harris mentioned in a previous First Monday, the Professional Learning Network (prolearningnetwork.cccco.edu) is a new one-stop professional development resource center for community college faculty, staff, administrators, and trustees. The PLN, officially launched on Monday, April 25, is a collaboration between the Chancellor's Office and the Success Center (part of the Foundation for California Community Colleges). It is a truly remarkable resource and will continue to get stronger as new content is created and added. I encourage you to explore it and share it with your college personnel. Paul Steenhausen, Executive Director of the Success Center, and Vice Chancellor Theresa Tena have done an amazing job managing this ground-breaking project.
6. **TICAS Report:** The Institute for College Access and Success, a well-regarded national financial aid policy and advocacy group, recently released a report entitled *On the Verge: Costs and Tradeoffs Facing Community College Students*. The report describes the financial realities of California Community College students, relying principally on student quotes to tell the story. While much of the content of the report is familiar to us, the first-person delivery is powerful and useful in reminding us of the daily challenges community college students face as they strive to achieve their educational goals. As we advocate for the passage of Board of Governors' sponsored legislation to expand Cal Grant support for our students (Assembly Bill 1721, Medina; and Assembly Bill 1892, Medina), such reports are very helpful. The link to the report can be found at: http://ticas.org/sites/default/files/pub_files/on_the_verge.pdf
7. **Accreditation:** At the March Board of Governors meeting, representatives of the CEO Board (Chancellor Brian King, Los Rios CCD; Chancellor Helen Benjamin, Contra Costa CCD; Chancellor Cindy Miles, Grossmont-Cuyamaca CCD) testified about their plans to forge a better model of accreditation for our system's colleges. Since that meeting, the CEOs have been carrying out the activities necessary to accomplish that objective. The amount of work accomplished in a relatively short period of time is remarkable, with workgroups having been established and deliverables defined. Chancellor King's regular updates to the CEOs have kept all of you informed. It is great to see this activity, as the leadership and involvement of the CEOs will be crucial to a favorable outcome. Thanks to the CEO Board and all of you involved in this important work.