

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

Student Focused for a Better California

JANUARY 2018



A Quality Public Option for All Californians

Community colleges are an invaluable investment. The California Community Colleges serve as an open door to a better life for generations of low-income and working-class students. Colleges are driven by an enduring vision of equity and understand their critical role in lifting the state's economy, closing achievement gaps, and providing quality educational access to all Californians.

A FUNDING FORMULA THAT ALIGNS WITH OUR MISSION

- **Funding that Aligns Our Values of Equity, Success, and Sustained Quality**

Our enrollment-driven formula fails to capture the comprehensive mission of CCCs and the counter-cyclical nature of college enrollment. We support the resources proposed for the transition to a new funding formula. College leaders also encourage an in-depth analysis of student-focused metrics that builds on the strengths of our colleges, align with our mission, and sustain quality at each college in every part of California.

A PUBLIC ONLINE OPTION FOR CALIFORNIANS

- **Online Education That Meets the Needs of Californians**

Quality public online education options are essential for Californians. The time is right to explore a public option that meets students in the workforce, at home or wherever they may search for education. We encourage a thoughtful and equity-focused approach that recognizes both the challenges and opportunities of effectively serving 25-34 year olds with no degrees or credentials for whom traditional higher education is not an option. Additionally, we urge commitment to the full implementation of the Online Education Initiative so that California's 114 colleges may continue building their online infrastructure.

APPLIED DEGREES TO MEET WORKFORCE NEEDS

- **Continue and Expand Baccalaureate Degrees at CCCs**

According to a PPIC report, if current trends continue, California will face a skills gap of 1.1 million workers with bachelor's degrees by 2030. Failing to keep up with the demand for skilled workers could curtail economic growth, limit economic mobility, and increase inequality. It could result in a less productive economy, lower incomes and tax revenue, and greater dependence on the social safety net. We support the continuation and expansion of the Baccalaureate degree programs at community colleges.

ADDRESS STUDENTS' MOST PRESSING COST

• Support Community College OER Expansion and Availability

Today, textbooks comprise an estimated 40% of the total cost of attendance at community colleges. This continues to be one of the most pressing affordability issues college students face. Community colleges seek the establishment of a program to implement open educational resources (OER) systemwide, coordinate state-level activities which OER availability, and to support local OER implementation.

SUPPORT A FINANCIAL AID STREAMLINING SYSTEM

• Invest in Financial Aid Advising Instead of Financial Aid Paper Handling

Complicated, outdated, manual financial aid processes create barriers to student enrollment and retention. Financial aid offices can simplify their entire student aid processing lifecycle by implementing software that streamlines the workflow. This effort would allow financial aid counselors, who are a primary source of information for students to understand how to pay for college, to focus on providing students with supports like counseling and training workshops.

COLLEGE FACILITIES

• Honor Voters' Will and Fund All 2018-19 Capital Outlay Projects

In 2016, California voters approved a facilities bond providing a \$2 billion infrastructure investment in California's community colleges. The budget funds only five (5) of 15 ready-to-go capital projects; dismissing voter support for Prop 51 and an extensive facilities need of \$42 billion over the next 10 years, including \$29.9 billion in unmet capital facility needs identified in the current Capital Outlay Plan. Failing to fund these capital projects represents a missed opportunity to create jobs and to cultivate a skilled and educated workforce in communities throughout the state.

EQUITY & AFFORDABILITY

• Equitably Fund Cal Grants for Community College Students

The 2018-19 Budget continues to distribute less than 10% of Cal Grant resources to California community college students despite the fact that our students comprise two-thirds of the higher education population. The lack of adequate financial aid leads students to take fewer classes, extends their time to graduation, and makes college unaffordable and a degree unattainable.

EDUCATIONAL QUALITY

System	Funding Amount
K-12	\$12,057
CCC	\$7,984
CSU	\$14,914
UC	\$26,162

• Support the Investment in Per-Student Funding

There is a critical nexus between general operating funds and educational quality. General operating resources fund innovation on campuses. We must make an investment in general resources that enable high functioning campuses.

