

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT/SUPERINTENDENT PRESIDENT'S CAMPUS UPDATES



January 13, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Last Friday, Gov. Newsom released his proposed budget for 2020-21. His second budget since taking office. The governor remains focused on investments that support “cradle to career” values that benefit all Californians. This year’s budget provides strong support for community colleges and continues to be aligned with the priorities and values outlined in the Vision for Success. This year, the governor has laid out an ambitious plan to address the state’s vexing homeless problem in a humane and holistic way that involves a significant investment of state resources. Basic needs will remain a priority focus for our colleges, and the governor’s budget allocates additional funding to combat hunger among our students.

The budget continues the phased-in implementation of the Student-Centered Funding Formula, which is a cornerstone for achieving the goals of the Vision for Success. Although the budget makes no change to the formula, the administration has expressed interest in considering the inclusion of a first-generation student metric in the future. A minimum of two years of data would be needed for the Department of Finance to produce reliable projections. The budget proposal includes 0.5 percent growth in access, and a 2.29 percent COLA for apportionments and selected categorical programs.

Other highlights of the budget include:

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion -- One-time funding of \$15 million for a fellowship program for current and recent graduate students aimed at diversifying college faculties through recruitment and mentorship.
- Work-based Learning -- \$15 million ongoing to expand the California Apprenticeship Initiative, which supports the development of new and innovative apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs through competitive grants. The budget also includes \$20 million (one-time) to provide grants to expand the availability of work-based learning, including apprenticeships and competency-based education strategies, within Guided Pathways.
- Undocumented Students -- \$5.8 million ongoing to fund a Dreamer Resource Liaison and associated support services at each campus. In addition, the governor proposes \$10 million in ongoing support for legal services.

The budget also includes the Chancellor’s Office proposal to consolidate various set-asides and statewide programs to a new CCC System Support Program. With the proposed consolidation, the administration expects the new program to provide more coordinated, efficient, accountable, and consistent program support. While the budget proposal does not include funding for increased need-based student financial aid, the administration has signaled that it is eager to consider the conclusions and recommendations of a working group convened by the California Student Aid Commission to study Cal Grant reform. We will continue to work with the administration and Legislature on these and other priorities as we approach the May budget revision.

Although our perspectives on the policies included in the state budget may sometimes differ, we should all be able to rely on the same set of facts about how the budget will affect the California Community Colleges. The Chancellor’s Office has once again partnered with the Association of California Community College Administrators, the Association of Chief Business Officials, and the Community College League of California to produce a detailed joint analysis of the state budget, which will be distributed later today.

Our administration will do everything we can to make sure our students receive the support they need in the coming year.

Thanks,
Jose

Jose Fierro, D.V.M., Ph.D.
President/Superintendent