



# RESTORING THE PROMISE

## CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES 2014-15 BUDGET POINTS

*Community College League of California*

*April 2014, Revised*

### RESTORING ACCESS, IMPROVING STUDENT SUCCESS AND DELIVERING EQUITY

The Governor's proposed budget is a solid investment in access, success and equity. We share his vision that each of these areas plays an indispensable part in providing the best possible educational experience for our students.

### 2014-15 BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

#### ACCESS

We are grateful that the Governor has proposed a 3% increase (\$155.2 million) for access so that colleges can restore classes for some of the hundreds of thousands of students who lost access due to budget cuts in recent years. We also concur with the Governor that the growth formula for new students needs to be updated to include participation rates and reflect the changing demographics of our state. A task force of the Association of Chief Business Officers (ACBO) is currently working on developing such a formula. We believe that this new formula should not take effect until 2015-16 to give districts time to plan. Because districts experienced sustained cuts and loss of purchasing power during the Great Recession, new investment in the colleges must be done in a measured and responsible manner. Districts must balance demand with quality and ensure colleges have the resources to provide the critical services necessary for student success. In recognition of that, community colleges request 2% enrollment restoration resources (\$103 million) coupled with the augmentations noted below.

#### SUCCESS

We appreciate the recognition of the importance of the continued expansion of the Student Success and Support Program (SSSP) through an additional \$100 million. These funds will be used by the colleges on best practices in orientation, assessment, placement, counseling and support of our students so that they can successfully reach their intended goals.

#### EQUITY

We believe that the \$100 million to address gaps in access and achievement among underrepresented student groups by funding local campus student equity plans is an essential element of our major goal of increasing equity. These funds will allow colleges to use proven programs and evidence-based strategies. Many of our institutions have successful programs – models of excellence which we are unable to move to the next level in terms of serving more students. Colleges have been seriously hindered by a lack of ongoing resources to make additional investments into the fixed costs of running a program. This augmentation will provide the flexible resources to take successful evidence-based, campus-designed solutions to scale.

#### *Examples include:*

- Expand learning communities on campus – Summer Bridge, 1st Year Experience, Freshman Experience;
- Contextualized basic skills CTE classes;
- Supplemental instruction in Math/English and expanded hours in reading and math labs;
- More tutors in basic skills classes;
- Expand mentor programs and peer mentoring programs;

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- Technology resources available to students and technology outreach services to support high school outreach, college outreach, and community outreach;
- Build on existing programs: Black Student Union, Emerging Scholar, Access and Success through Excellence and Persistence Program, Women in Industry and Technology Program, Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement Program (MESA), Academy of the Redwoods;
- Bilingual staff support when reaching out to high schools;
- Increase outreach for financial aid office; and
- Restore and expand evening and weekend hours of the library; more textbooks

These are critical, flexible resources community colleges have been lacking for years that will fund implementation of student equity plans that are already in development by college faculty and staff. CCLC is NOT supportive of the administrations flexibility provisions related to Basic Skills, CalWORKs and EOPS. CCLC does not believe that proposal is necessary to accomplish the goals outlined by the administration.

#### **MATCH REQUIREMENTS**

We are concerned with the proposal to require significant local match requirements for expansion of several programs, given that the colleges have lost 16% in purchasing power since 2007-08 and simply do not have flexible funds to meet these requirements.

#### **MAY REVISE ADDITIONAL FUNDS**

Recent fiscal analysis suggests that there will be additional Proposition 98 funds at May Revise. We propose the following priorities for those funds:

- Increase the enhanced noncredit rate for Career Development and College Preparation (CDCP) classes to the full credit rate. This was part of the original intent in discussions of the Workgroup on Community College Finance and was originally proposed to be included in SB 361/2006. In this era of student success, this proposal would provide a more dynamic approach to the delivery of remedial education. The financial disincentive to offer non credit instruction would no longer exist. This augmentation will enable colleges to provide pre-assessment review classes and innovative and effective basic skills courses which may be better tailored to remedial students. In addition, remedial students may be more inclined to enroll in non-credit remedial courses which have no fee and will not start their respective financial aid eligibility clock.
- Resources to convert 400 part-time faculty positions to full-time status. These new full-time faculty will enable the system to continue the momentum of student success and contribute to equity within the system.
- Resources for career-technical education to create an incentive for more experimental and innovative programs.
- Resources for professional development to provide training for new full-time faculty and for classified staff to ensure all college employees can be as effective as possible in their positions.
- Resources to restore Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS), Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS), and CalWORKs.
- With increased non-Proposition 98 General Fund, resources to increase the number of Competitive Cal Grant B awards (currently at 22,500 awards) and increase the award level (currently at \$1,473).