



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

MEDIA STATEMENT

September 3, 2010

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California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott Comments on Today's California Chamber of Commerce Board Action

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott today resigned from the Board of Directors of the California Chamber of Commerce following its decision to endorse political candidates. In a letter to the Chamber, Chancellor Scott said the following -

“Today I resigned from the board, effective immediately. Although I would have preferred to remain in the position, in light of the Chamber’s action to engage in electioneering, it is no longer possible for me to serve in this capacity.

“I do not believe the board is using sound judgment by catapulting the California Chamber of Commerce into the center of a fierce political contest for the state’s next governor. It is constructive when the Chamber weighs in on matters of public policy that impact California businesses, but it is destructive to its core mission and the businesses it represents when it becomes a partisan operation.

“It is in the best interest of the community college system that I stay out of partisan politics. As I have consistently done in the past, I will work cooperatively with any governor, whether a Democrat, Republican or third party candidate.”

The [California Community Colleges](#) is the largest system of higher education in the nation. It is composed of 72 districts and 112 colleges serving 2.9 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, a basic skills education and prepare students for transfer to four-year colleges and universities. The Chancellor’s Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

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Att: Letter to the California Chamber of Commerce in its entirety.



September 3, 2010

Mr. Allan Zaremberg
California Chamber of Commerce
1215 K Street, Suite 1400
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Allan:

I am writing to let you know I am resigning from the Board of Directors of the California Chamber of Commerce, effective immediately.

Although it would have been my preference to remain on the board, in light of the Chamber's action today to engage in electioneering, remaining on the board is no longer possible. As I expressed to the board during the Chamber's open meeting, I do not believe the board is using sound judgment by catapulting the California Chamber of Commerce into the center of a fierce political contest for California's next governor. It is a constructive act when the Chamber weighs in on matters of public policy that impacts California businesses, but it is destructive to the Chamber's core mission and the businesses it represents when it becomes a partisan operation.

As the state Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, it is in the best interest of the constituents that I represent to stay out of partisan politics altogether. As I consistently have done in the past, I will work cooperatively with any governor, whether a Democrat, Republican, or a third party candidate.

As you know, I am a strong supporter of the mission of the California Chamber of Commerce. I hope that my service to the board has strengthened the relationship between your organization and the California Community Colleges, the state's largest workforce provider.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jack Scott".

Jack Scott, Ph.D.
Chancellor