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Chancellor Woodruff Supports Expanded Algebra Instruction for 8th Graders

SACRAMENTO – California Community Colleges Chancellor Diane Woodruff has joined Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in asking the California State Board of Education to adopt Algebra 1 as the mathematics standard for the state’s 8th graders.

“Overwhelming research has shown that Algebra is the gateway skill to success in both the workforce and in college. For this reason, we strongly support the goal of having all students take Algebra I in the 8th grade. We know that this high standard will require an intense commitment and increased investment in the resources for schools and staff development for K-12 teachers. I agree with the Governor that when we set our goals high, we have a greater likelihood of meeting the goal and substantially improving the quality of education for all students.

“We have a great deal riding on our ability to improve the math skills of our next generation. To compete in today’s global economy, California must significantly increase our supply of highly-skilled workers. In particular we must address tremendous workforce shortages in fields that demand strong competencies in math and science. Improving math preparation at the middle school level is an important step toward meeting this critical need.”

A copy of the letter sent by Chancellor Woodruff to the State Board of Education is attached to the e-mail.

The California Community Colleges is the largest higher educational system in the nation comprised of 72 districts and 110 colleges with more than 2.6 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training and basic skills education, prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions and offer opportunities for personal enrichment and lifelong learning. The System Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. For more information about the community colleges system, please visit <http://www.cccco.edu/>

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