



**November 2017**

## **FEDERAL ADVOCACY DELEGATION**

On October 2-4, 2017, Chancellor Oakley, Vice Chancellor Metune and Senior Advisor Ajita Talwalker Menon, traveled to Washington D.C. to conduct a series of advocacy and strategic relationship meetings. The purpose of the trip was to make connections with the higher education and workforce leadership and to open up discussions regarding the Higher Education Act reauthorization, to discuss DACA action with Congressional leadership, to meet with the Department of Education, and to connect with national higher education organizations, including The Education Trust and the American Council on Education.

It was a very productive set of meetings, which resulted in the opportunity to meet with Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, in California on Thursday, October 12, 2017. The meeting was hosted in San José at NextFlex, highlighting the [FlexFactor Program](#). The meeting involved the Secretary and her team and focused on issues of workforce training, apprenticeships, and career pathways. We also discussed DACA and Title IX, the importance of investing in community colleges, and our role in workforce training.

The October delegation marks the third trip to Washington D.C. for 2017 CCCCO advocacy. The CCCCO and Board of Governors participated in the February 12-14 National Legislative Summit of the American Association of Community Colleges and the American Association of Community College Trustees. In June, the CCCCO joined the Community College League of California and the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges to meet members of the California Congressional Delegation and to participate in a staff-level California Higher Education Caucus briefing that focused on, among other priorities, the importance of the DACA program for our students.

## **DACA ADVOCACY EFFORTS**

Chancellor Oakley announced October 16-20 as DACA Advocacy Week. In response, CCCs throughout the state met with members of Congress and held workshops and legal clinics for their students. DACA Advocacy Week is a joint effort with the Community College League of California, the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges, and the Student Senate for California Community Colleges. Ted Mitchell, president of ACE, launched a national DACA advocacy effort that coincides with DACA Advocacy Week.

The CCCCO is also supporting the Student Senate in a student-led postcard and phone-banking campaign in support of a permanent solution for DACA. Postcards and materials, sponsored by the Community College League of California, were distributed to student leaders at the October convening of the Student Senate and will be collected and shared with Congressional representatives over the next two months.

Chancellor Oakley also submitted formal comments to the Senate Judiciary Committee in response to their oversight hearing on the Administration's decision to end DACA. Those comments can be read in full, here: <http://www.cccco.edu/Portals/1/oversight-hearing.pdf>.

## **APPOINTMENT TO OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS**

On October 26, 2017, the White House announced that President Trump would nominate Kenneth L. Marcus, President and General Counsel of the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law, as the next head of civil rights at the Department of Education. If confirmed, Marcus would assume the duties of Candice Jackson, who has served as acting assistant secretary for civil rights at the department since April and will remain at the department as Deputy Assistant Secretary for

strategic operations and outreach. Marcus was previously the Staff Director of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights for four years under the Bush administration and prior to that served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for civil rights at the Department of Education. While at the Department of Education, Marcus wrote the policy used by the Office for Civil Rights to investigate allegations of anti-Semitism on campuses. At the Brandeis Center, he has been outspoken about what he has called increasingly pervasive anti-Semitism on campuses.

## **HOUSE APPROVES SENATE VERSION OF BUDGET**

The House of Representatives narrowly passed the Senate's budget resolution for Fiscal Year 2018 on October 26, 2017. The 216-212 vote avoids a conference committee and allows tax reform legislation to be passed under reconciliation rules (cannot be filibustered). The resolution does not have full details of spending other than \$4 trillion in spending cuts over the next 10 years. Much of the details will have to be worked out between the House and Senate before final passage.