



June 3, 2022

Governor Gavin Newsom
State of California
State Capitol Office
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

Thank you for the support and partnership your administration continues to extend to the California Community Colleges.

I write to urge your continued efforts to secure the Administration's proposal to increase staffing at the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office by 26 positions to keep pace with increased workload and to meet the needs of more than 1.8 million students and 116 colleges. Since 2010-11, the Chancellor's Office has seen a 192% increase in the number of programs and initiatives it manages. Unfortunately, during this same period, staffing levels for the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office have roughly remained stagnant. Absent system-level capacity, implementation will remain inequitable and statewide progress will be unachievable.

Our state relies on community colleges to annually prepare thousands of students to transfer to four-year universities, and to provide career and workforce credentials to thousands more – and the 116 colleges rely on the system office to support them in this critical work.

Current system-office staffing levels are just one more example of the inequitable structure Californian Community Colleges and the students it serves face. Our system enrolls more than two-thirds of all undergraduate students in California, the largest proportion of students of color, and it is the open access institution low-income Californians turn to. Yet, the system office has the lowest staffing levels in the state and country for its size and reach. Bold agendas, like the Roadmap for the Future, are made possible through people power. While we stand ready to advance the important goal of achieving 70% postsecondary degree and certificate attainment among working-age Californians by 2030, we cannot make progress if structural inequities, such as system office staffing levels, are not addressed first.

Thank you for your continued support and urgent attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eloy Ortiz Oakley".

Eloy Ortiz Oakley
Chancellor

cc:

Ana J. Matosantos, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom



California
Community
Colleges

ELOY ORTIZ OAKLEY
Chancellor

Anthony Rendon, Speaker, California State Assembly
Toni Atkins, President pro tempore, California State Senate
Keely Bosler, Director, Department of Finance
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