MEMORANDUM March 6, 2024

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- **TO:** Chief Executive Officers Chief Information Systems Officers Chief Instructional Officers Chief Student Services Officers Chief Business Officers
- **FROM:** Valerie Lundy-Wagner, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor Digital Innovation and Infrastructure
- **RE:** 2024 System-Funded Technology & Related Resources

The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (Chancellor's Office) supports a variety of educational and other technologies that complement local faculty and staff efforts to ensure a high-quality experience for all students. The purpose of this memo is to provide a comprehensive update on system-funded technologies that include student- and faculty-facing tools, as well as backend information technology (IT) systems and services, including those related to accessibility and security.

## System-Supported Technology Resources

To maximize state technology investments, the Chancellor's Office uses various Proposition 98based funding vehicles designed to reduce the local burden related to technology development and availability as well as contract negotiation and procurement. This section describes key partnerships facilitating system-funded licenses, subscriptions, and technology services.

# California Community Colleges Technology Center (Tech Center)

The Tech Center, supported by multiple grants to the Butte-Glenn Community College District (BGCCD), hosts multiple information systems and services for local and system operations. CCCApply and an electronic transcript platform are examples of these. The Tech Center in FY2023-24 holds the following systemwide licenses and subscriptions.

Supplier/Vendor	Service Area
Career Coach	Career Exploration
CCC Document Converter by SensusAccess	Online Content Accessibility and Alternate Media Formats

Equidox	Online Content Accessibility and Document Remediation
InCommon Federation (unlimited SSL Certificates)	Information Security
Library Database Subscription Services (EBSCO)	Library Services
Tenable.sc (Vulnerability Management)	Information Security
Pope Tech Dashboards and Instructor Accessibility Guide for Canvas	Online Content Accessibility
Pope Tech Web Accessibility Scanning Tool	Online Content Accessibility and website Remediation
Shibboleth IDP	Information Security
Splunk Logging	Information Security
Tenable (Nessus Manager)	Information Security

For more information about the tools listed here (or others supported by the Tech Center), please contact your single point of contact, College Experience Manager, or email <u>Cems@ccctechcenter.org</u>.

## **CCC TechConnect**

TechConnect, at Palomar Community College District, hosts the systemwide services as described briefly below:

- **Zoom** provides Zoom accounts to all faculty, staff, and administrators in the California Community College System, enabling online courses and meetings. Guidance will be provided to districts in spring 2024 regarding the importance of proactively managing Zoom storage size and options to do so effectively.
- **Cloud or 3C Media Solutions** is the educational media repository and distribution source for video content, streaming, and event coverage.
- **Online Teaching Conference** is an annual event focused on curriculum, pedagogy, and technology to improve online instruction, learning, and student success.
- **DECT** is the Distance Education Captioning and Transcription grant which provides accessibility for digital materials to online students. Some components of online learning require captioning, transcription, or other accessibility features to remain in compliance with state and federal laws (as of July 1, 2023).

The following systemwide licenses and subscriptions are held by the TechConnect in FY2023-24.

Supplier/Vendor	Service Area
Zoom	Video Conferencing, Online Classes, and Meetings
PlayPosit	Video Interactivity
Shire Captioning Editor	Online Content Accessibility & Alternate Media Formats
JW Player	Accessible Video and Media Player

For information about Tech Connect Zoom, Cloud, Online Teaching Conference, or DECT, please see the TechConnect website at <u>www.ccctechconnect.org</u>, <u>https://www.cccdectgrant.org/</u>, or contact <u>support@ccctechconnect.org</u>.

## CollegeBuys Program and Systemwide Technology Access Collaborative

The CollegeBuys Program was established at the Foundation for California Community Colleges to serve as the systemwide procurement and contracting hub, leveraging the California Community College's economies of scale to develop compliant strategic sourcing agreements that result in cost savings, standardization of terms, risk mitigation, and source optimization for various commodities and services including, but not limited to software and technology products. Local staff should be familiar with the systemwide institutional contracts provided by CollegeBuys that are available on their website at <u>https://purchasing.collegebuys.org</u>.

The CollegeBuys-negotiated contract with Microsoft, funded in FY2022-23 for four years, was key to systemwide information security efforts and helped reduce local risk profiles by providing free access to basic security controls. In addition, the system-funded implementation services for the A5 Security Suite to ensure that "highest-need" districts were able to implement by February 2024. Districts identified as having moderate and low need in FY2022-23 were also expected to implement the A5 Security Suite on the same timeline with an opportunity to take advantage of the pre-negotiated implementation package pricing.

Since 2021, the CollegeBuys team has collaborated with the Chancellor's Office (Division of Digital Innovation and Infrastructure and Office of Equitable Student Learning, Experience, and Impact) and California Virtual Campus (CVC) to ensure technology tools are available to support virtual classrooms and support services. This collaboration, better known as Systemwide Technology Access Collaborative (STAC), centralizes local orders of online teaching, learning, and student support tools with discounted pricing through aggregate procurement during a specified buying window. Please visit the website for the most up-to-date STAC information (<u>https://purchasing.collegebuys.org/systemwide-technology-access/</u>). Products available for preferred pricing through STAC's 2024-2025 purchasing window (open from March to June 2024) are listed below:

#### **System-Funded Technology Resources Memorandum** March 6, 2024

Supplier	Service Area
Anthology (Ally Blackboard)	Online Content Accessibility & Alternate Media Formats
Labster	Virtual Science Labs Platform
Name Coach	Name Pronunciation & Gender Identification
NetTutor (Link-Systems)	Online Tutoring Services
Pronto	Online Student Engagement Platform
Turnitin	Academic Integrity Platform

Of note, tools within STAC should not be assumed accessible under the Federal Section 508 standards. The Accessibility Center, hosted at the BGCCD, should be considered a key resource for local staff working to comply with Federal Sections 504 and 508. For more information about systemwide accessibility-related services and supports, please review the Accessibility Center webpage (<u>https://cccaccessibility.org/</u>) or contact <u>Accessibility@ccctechcenter.org</u>.

## **California Virtual Campus**

The California Virtual Campus (CVC), funded primarily through the Course Exchange grant, held by the Foothill-De Anza Community College District, currently provides operational support for the systemwide licenses to the Canvas Learning Management System (Canvas) Canvas Studio, which helps faculty to embed opportunities for engagement using multimedia in online modalities, and Impact, which helps to monitor Learning Management System analytics. These tools will continue to be funded at the system level, with the CVC team continuing to facilitate committees designed to ensure local needs are identified and used to inform vendor management and product enhancements.

The CVC team also provides implementation services and support for the Canvas ecosystem (as well as the Course Exchange). For more information about CVC-managed implementation services and support, please contact <u>Support@cvc.edu</u>.

# **Optimizing State Funds for Digital Equity**

Technology will play a critical role in our shared work toward Vision 2030. The Chancellor's Office and grantees regularly review all system-funded technology products, tools, and resources to maximize state funding and ensure alignment with the Vision for equitable student experiences. Of note is the extent to which system-funded tools: 1) are widely adopted and utilized, 2) are set up for data collection and management that informs local and system-wide research on impacts to student success, and 3) meet appropriate standards for accessibility.

### **System-Funded Technology Resources Memorandum** March 6, 2024

The Chancellor's Office will continue to explore ways to maximize our collective efforts to ensure students have equitable access to and effective delivery of virtual instruction and services. Efforts to review system-supported tools and services and the structures provided will also continue to inform ongoing system-level efforts to reduce the local burden for staff seeking to secure and implement needed technology resources.

Should you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact me at <u>VLundywagner@cccco.edu</u> or 916-322-1928.

cc: Sonya Christian, Chancellor Daisy Gonzales, Deputy Chancellor John Hetts, Executive Vice Chancellor Aisha Lowe, Executive Vice Chancellor Rebecca Ruan-O'Shaughnessy, Vice Chancellor Anthony Cordova, Vice Chancellor John Stanskas, Vice Chancellor