



California
Community
Colleges

ELOY ORTIZ OAKLEY
Chancellor
California Community Colleges

March 31, 2020

Ms. Keely Bosler, Director
California Department of Finance
State Capitol Office, Room 1145
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Bosler:

Thank you for the support and partnership the Department of Finance and the Governor Newsom administration continues to extend to the California Community Colleges.

Recognizing the development of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) as a public health emergency will require state leaders to reprioritize budgetary investments, I offer the California Community Colleges' revised 2020-21 state budget priorities. The request focuses on our fundamental needs and is crafted to support students and colleges through this health crisis while also mitigating disruption to instruction, the focus on equity, or momentum toward the *Vision for Success*.

The California Community Colleges rapidly mobilized in response to the coronavirus pandemic, converting from in-person to remote or online instruction for nearly every course while continuing to provide hands-on training for first responders and essential health care professionals. As a system of 2.1 million students, the largest in the nation, we still face many challenges in adapting to multiple technologies and strategies to serve some of the state's most deeply affected populations. It is critically important that our colleges be positioned to support the upskilling and re-employment needs of the millions of Californians displaced by the public health crisis. The revised 2020-21 state budget request enables the continuity of quality, responsive education.

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In its entirety, the updated 2020-21 revised Request represents new and ongoing investments that are necessary for the California Community Colleges to contribute to California's health and economic recovery in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. California's community colleges are an indispensable investment in our state's present and future prosperity. Our colleges constitute an accessible path to a better life for generations of low-income and working-class Californians. The California Community Colleges are driven by an enduring vision of equity, and their faculty and staff embrace their critical role in closing achievement gaps and economic mobility. Sufficient resources enable innovation and promote fiscal stability for districts confronting rapidly increasing uncertainty and instructional costs.

As you will see in our request, our highest priority is to protect quality higher education opportunities for Californians by securing a strong investment in California's community colleges. Thank you for your consideration and continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'EOO'.

Eloy Ortiz Oakley
Chancellor

Enclosure: 2020-21 Revised State Budget Priorities