



April 9, 2018

The Honorable Jim Beall
State Capitol, Room 2082
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Governor Brown's Proposal for a Fully Online Community College

Dear Senator Beall,

The Bay Area Council, a non-profit public policy advocacy organization representing hundreds of the largest employers in the Bay Area, submits this letter in support of Governor Brown's proposed online community college. This letter is a follow-up to the comments provided by Linda Bidrossian, Senior Vice President of Policy at the Bay Area Council, during the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee hearing on February 8, 2018.

Employers in the Bay Area and throughout the state of California are desperate for more local, qualified talent, and have expressed pain points related to filling their middle-skills jobs. In the Bay Area alone, tens of thousands of these jobs go unfilled each year. Middle-skills jobs typically require an associate's degree, certificate, badging, or extensive experience, and often pay above living wages and offer career growth pathways. The California Community Colleges are an excellent resource for training and readying individuals for middle-skills jobs, and there is no doubt that their 114 schools throughout the state (with 28 here in the Bay Area region) are serving a great need.

Despite the reach of the community colleges, it is time that California take an innovative approach to meeting the needs of the nearly 2.5 million adults aged 25 to 34 who graduated from high school but lack a college degree. By developing a new, online educational delivery model that reaches working adults and offers an opportunity to develop new skills, we can address the talent needs of our region and state's employers while connecting individuals to in-demand career opportunities.

Of course, as others have stated, online education won't serve every student or career need. Existing brick and mortar colleges will continue to play critical roles in education and training throughout the state. However, Governor Brown's proposed online community college represents a long overdue response to pressing needs for more qualified talent, and we urge you to approve the startup and ongoing funds. It is essential to broaden working adults' accessibility to education to support the continued economic growth of our state as well as the financial well-being of our residents, and there is no time to waste.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jim Wunderman'.

Jim Wunderman
President & CEO
Bay Area Council



April 9, 2018

The Honorable Bill Dodd
State Capitol, Room 5064
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Governor Brown's Proposal for a Fully Online Community College

Dear Senator Dodd,

The Bay Area Council, a non-profit public policy advocacy organization representing hundreds of the largest employers in the Bay Area, submits this letter in support of Governor Brown's proposed online community college. This letter is a follow-up to the comments provided by Linda Bidrossian, Senior Vice President of Policy at the Bay Area Council, during the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee hearing on February 8, 2018.

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Sincerely,

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Jim Wunderman
President & CEO
Bay Area Council



April 9, 2018

The Honorable Jerry Hill
State Capitol, Room 5035
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Governor Brown's Proposal for a Fully Online Community College

Dear Senator Hill,

The Bay Area Council, a non-profit public policy advocacy organization representing hundreds of the largest employers in the Bay Area, submits this letter in support of Governor Brown's proposed online community college. This letter is a follow-up to the comments provided by Linda Bidrossian, Senior Vice President of Policy at the Bay Area Council, during the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee hearing on February 8, 2018.

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Jim Wunderman
President & CEO
Bay Area Council



April 9, 2018

The Honorable Scott Wiener
State Capitol, Room 4066
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Governor Brown's Proposal for a Fully Online Community College

Dear Senator Wiener,

The Bay Area Council, a non-profit public policy advocacy organization representing hundreds of the largest employers in the Bay Area, submits this letter in support of Governor Brown's proposed online community college. This letter is a follow-up to the comments provided by Linda Bidrossian, Senior Vice President of Policy at the Bay Area Council, during the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee hearing on February 8, 2018.

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Jim Wunderman
President & CEO
Bay Area Council



April 9, 2018

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
State Capitol, Room 5144
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Governor Brown's Proposal for a Fully Online Community College

Dear Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry,

The Bay Area Council, a non-profit public policy advocacy organization representing hundreds of the largest employers in the Bay Area, submits this letter in support of Governor Brown's proposed online community college. This letter is a follow-up to the comments provided by Linda Bidrossian, Senior Vice President of Policy at the Bay Area Council, during the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee hearing on February 8, 2018.

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Jim Wunderman
President & CEO
Bay Area Council



April 9, 2018

The Honorable Catharine B. Baker
State Capitol, Room 2130
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Governor Brown's Proposal for a Fully Online Community College

Dear Assemblymember Baker,

The Bay Area Council, a non-profit public policy advocacy organization representing hundreds of the largest employers in the Bay Area, submits this letter in support of Governor Brown's proposed online community college. This letter is a follow-up to the comments provided by Linda Bidrossian, Senior Vice President of Policy at the Bay Area Council, during the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee hearing on February 8, 2018.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jim Wunderman'.

Jim Wunderman
President & CEO
Bay Area Council



April 9, 2018

The Honorable Marc Berman
State Capitol, Room 6011
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Governor Brown's Proposal for a Fully Online Community College

Dear Assemblymember Berman,

The Bay Area Council, a non-profit public policy advocacy organization representing hundreds of the largest employers in the Bay Area, submits this letter in support of Governor Brown's proposed online community college. This letter is a follow-up to the comments provided by Linda Bidrossian, Senior Vice President of Policy at the Bay Area Council, during the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee hearing on February 8, 2018.

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Sincerely,

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Jim Wunderman
President & CEO
Bay Area Council



April 9, 2018

The Honorable Rob Bonta
State Capitol, Room 2148
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Governor Brown's Proposal for a Fully Online Community College

Dear Assemblymember Bonta,

The Bay Area Council, a non-profit public policy advocacy organization representing hundreds of the largest employers in the Bay Area, submits this letter in support of Governor Brown's proposed online community college. This letter is a follow-up to the comments provided by Linda Bidrossian, Senior Vice President of Policy at the Bay Area Council, during the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee hearing on February 8, 2018.

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Jim Wunderman
President & CEO
Bay Area Council



April 9, 2018

The Honorable Anna Caballero
State Capitol, Room 5158
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Governor Brown's Proposal for a Fully Online Community College

Dear Assemblymember Caballero,

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Sincerely,

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Jim Wunderman
President & CEO
Bay Area Council



April 9, 2018

The Honorable David Chiu
State Capitol, Room 4112
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Governor Brown's Proposal for a Fully Online Community College

Dear Assemblymember Chiu,

The Bay Area Council, a non-profit public policy advocacy organization representing hundreds of the largest employers in the Bay Area, submits this letter in support of Governor Brown's proposed online community college. This letter is a follow-up to the comments provided by Linda Bidrossian, Senior Vice President of Policy at the Bay Area Council, during the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee hearing on February 8, 2018.

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Jim Wunderman
President & CEO
Bay Area Council



April 9, 2018

The Honorable Kansen Chu
State Capitol, Room 3216
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Governor Brown's Proposal for a Fully Online Community College

Dear Assemblymember Chu,

The Bay Area Council, a non-profit public policy advocacy organization representing hundreds of the largest employers in the Bay Area, submits this letter in support of Governor Brown's proposed online community college. This letter is a follow-up to the comments provided by Linda Bidrossian, Senior Vice President of Policy at the Bay Area Council, during the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee hearing on February 8, 2018.

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Jim Wunderman
President & CEO
Bay Area Council



April 9, 2018

The Honorable Jim Frazier
State Capitol, Room 3091
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Governor Brown's Proposal for a Fully Online Community College

Dear Assemblymember Frazier,

The Bay Area Council, a non-profit public policy advocacy organization representing hundreds of the largest employers in the Bay Area, submits this letter in support of Governor Brown's proposed online community college. This letter is a follow-up to the comments provided by Linda Bidrossian, Senior Vice President of Policy at the Bay Area Council, during the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee hearing on February 8, 2018.

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Jim Wunderman
President & CEO
Bay Area Council



April 9, 2018

The Honorable Timothy S. Grayson
State Capitol, Room 4164
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Governor Brown's Proposal for a Fully Online Community College

Dear Assemblymember Grayson,

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Jim Wunderman
President & CEO
Bay Area Council



April 9, 2018

The Honorable Ash Kalra
State Capitol, Room 5160
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Governor Brown's Proposal for a Fully Online Community College

Dear Assemblymember Kalra,

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Jim Wunderman
President & CEO
Bay Area Council



April 9, 2018

The Honorable Marc Levine
State Capitol, Room 5135
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Governor Brown's Proposal for a Fully Online Community College

Dear Assemblymember Levine,

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Jim Wunderman
President & CEO
Bay Area Council



April 9, 2018

The Honorable Evan Low
State Capitol, Room 4126
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Governor Brown's Proposal for a Fully Online Community College

Dear Assemblymember Low,

The Bay Area Council, a non-profit public policy advocacy organization representing hundreds of the largest employers in the Bay Area, submits this letter in support of Governor Brown's proposed online community college. This letter is a follow-up to the comments provided by Linda Bidrossian, Senior Vice President of Policy at the Bay Area Council, during the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee hearing on February 8, 2018.

Employers in the Bay Area and throughout the state of California are desperate for more local, qualified talent, and have expressed pain points related to filling their middle-skills jobs. In the Bay Area alone, tens of thousands of these jobs go unfilled each year. Middle-skills jobs typically require an associate's degree, certificate, badging, or extensive experience, and often pay above living wages and offer career growth pathways. The California Community Colleges are an excellent resource for training and readying individuals for middle-skills jobs, and there is no doubt that their 114 schools throughout the state (with 28 here in the Bay Area region) are serving a great need.

Despite the reach of the community colleges, it is time that California take an innovative approach to meeting the needs of the nearly 2.5 million adults aged 25 to 34 who graduated from high school but lack a college degree. By developing a new, online educational delivery model that reaches working adults and offers an opportunity to develop new skills, we can address the talent needs of our region and state's employers while connecting individuals to in-demand career opportunities.

Of course, as others have stated, online education won't serve every student or career need. Existing brick and mortar colleges will continue to play critical roles in education and training throughout the state. However, Governor Brown's proposed online community college represents a long overdue response to pressing needs for more qualified talent, and we urge you to approve the startup and ongoing funds. It is essential to broaden working adults' accessibility to education to support the continued economic growth of our state as well as the financial well-being of our residents, and there is no time to waste.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jim Wunderman'.

Jim Wunderman
President & CEO
Bay Area Council



April 9, 2018

The Honorable Kevin Mullin
State Capitol, Room 3160
Sacramento, CA 95816

RE: Support for Governor Brown's Proposal for a Fully Online Community College

Dear Assemblymember Mullin,

The Bay Area Council, a non-profit public policy advocacy organization representing hundreds of the largest employers in the Bay Area, submits this letter in support of Governor Brown's proposed online community college. This letter is a follow-up to the comments provided by Linda Bidrossian, Senior Vice President of Policy at the Bay Area Council, during the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee hearing on February 8, 2018.

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Jim Wunderman
President & CEO
Bay Area Council



April 9, 2018

The Honorable Bill Quirk
State Capitol, Room 2163
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Governor Brown's Proposal for a Fully Online Community College

Dear Assemblymember Quirk,

The Bay Area Council, a non-profit public policy advocacy organization representing hundreds of the largest employers in the Bay Area, submits this letter in support of Governor Brown's proposed online community college. This letter is a follow-up to the comments provided by Linda Bidrossian, Senior Vice President of Policy at the Bay Area Council, during the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee hearing on February 8, 2018.

Employers in the Bay Area and throughout the state of California are desperate for more local, qualified talent, and have expressed pain points related to filling their middle-skills jobs. In the Bay Area alone, tens of thousands of these jobs go unfilled each year. Middle-skills jobs typically require an associate's degree, certificate, badging, or extensive experience, and often pay above living wages and offer career growth pathways. The California Community Colleges are an excellent resource for training and readying individuals for middle-skills jobs, and there is no doubt that their 114 schools throughout the state (with 28 here in the Bay Area region) are serving a great need.

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Jim Wunderman
President & CEO
Bay Area Council



April 9, 2018

The Honorable Mark Stone
State Capitol, Room 3146
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Governor Brown's Proposal for a Fully Online Community College

Dear Assemblymember Stone,

The Bay Area Council, a non-profit public policy advocacy organization representing hundreds of the largest employers in the Bay Area, submits this letter in support of Governor Brown's proposed online community college. This letter is a follow-up to the comments provided by Linda Bidrossian, Senior Vice President of Policy at the Bay Area Council, during the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee hearing on February 8, 2018.

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Sincerely,

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Jim Wunderman
President & CEO
Bay Area Council



April 9, 2018

The Honorable Tony Thurmond
State Capitol, Room 4005
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Governor Brown's Proposal for a Fully Online Community College

Dear Assemblymember Thurmond,

The Bay Area Council, a non-profit public policy advocacy organization representing hundreds of the largest employers in the Bay Area, submits this letter in support of Governor Brown's proposed online community college. This letter is a follow-up to the comments provided by Linda Bidrossian, Senior Vice President of Policy at the Bay Area Council, during the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee hearing on February 8, 2018.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jim Wunderman'.

Jim Wunderman
President & CEO
Bay Area Council



April 9, 2018

The Honorable Philip Y. Ting
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Governor Brown's Proposal for a Fully Online Community College

Dear Assemblymember Ting,

The Bay Area Council, a non-profit public policy advocacy organization representing hundreds of the largest employers in the Bay Area, submits this letter in support of Governor Brown's proposed online community college. This letter is a follow-up to the comments provided by Linda Bidrossian, Senior Vice President of Policy at the Bay Area Council, during the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee hearing on February 8, 2018.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jim Wunderman'.

Jim Wunderman
President & CEO
Bay Area Council



April 9, 2018

The Honorable Jim Wood
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Governor Brown's Proposal for a Fully Online Community College

Dear Assemblymember Wood,

The Bay Area Council, a non-profit public policy advocacy organization representing hundreds of the largest employers in the Bay Area, submits this letter in support of Governor Brown's proposed online community college. This letter is a follow-up to the comments provided by Linda Bidrossian, Senior Vice President of Policy at the Bay Area Council, during the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee hearing on February 8, 2018.

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President & CEO
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