



CALIFORNIA STATE CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

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March 21, 2018

The Honorable Holly Mitchell, Chair
Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
State Capitol, Room 5080
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Portantino, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #1
State Capitol, Room 3086
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Governor Brown's Proposed Online Community College

Dear Senators Mitchell and Portantino,

We are writing in **support of Governor Brown's 115th community college** – a fully online campus that will deliver skills and industry-valued credentials that millions of working adults need to advance their careers and improve their economic future. **Our organization fully supports this initiative and urges you to enact this historic proposal.**

We find it troubling that more than **2.5 million working Californians aged 25 to 34** – of whom 49 percent are Latino, 31 percent white, 9 percent Asian and 7 percent African American – currently **cannot access the educational pathways needed for economic mobility**. Many are primary household wage earners, work full-time jobs, care for family, and are unable to attend classes at a brick and mortar campus during a traditional academic year.

The 115th community college is unlike anything in California and will address an urgent, unmet need by providing a **flexible and affordable learning option** for workers to earn short-term certificates and credentials needed for higher wages and job promotion.

With the sixth largest economy in the world, it is imperative that California invest in educating and training more adults to meet the increasing demand for a skilled workforce and fuel our growing economy. Our success depends on the workforce of tomorrow, and **this proposal puts California on a path toward greater prosperity.**

We encourage you to embrace the 115th community college so that more workers in your districts can access the opportunity to improve their economic futures.

To learn more and read quotes from California leaders, visit the online community college website at www.cconlinecollege.org.

Thank you,



Alice A. Huffman, President
California State Conference NAACP

CC:

The Honorable Hannah Beth Jackson, Member
State Capitol, Room 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable John Moorlach
State Capitol, Room 2048
Sacramento, CA 95814

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