

March 15, 2018

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Kevin McCarty
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2
State Capitol, Room 2136
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Governor Brown's Proposed Online Community College

Dear Assembly Members Ting and McCarty:

On behalf of the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC), I am writing to express our support of Governor Brown's proposed Online Community College. CENIC supports the use of distance education as a vehicle to access and achieve success in higher education, and we stand ready to deliver the connectivity infrastructure needed to support this endeavor.

CENIC connects California to the world – advancing education and research statewide by providing the world-class network essential for innovation, collaboration and economic growth. This nonprofit organization operates the California Research and Education Network (CalREN), a high-capacity network designed to meet the unique requirements of over 20 million users, including the vast majority of K-20 students together with educators, researchers and others at vital public-serving institutions. CENIC's Charter Associates are part of the world's largest education system; they include the California K-12 system, California Community Colleges, the California State University system, California's Public Libraries, the University of California system, Stanford, Caltech, USC and the Naval Postgraduate School. CENIC also provides connectivity to leading-edge institutions and industry research organizations around the world, serving the public as a catalyst for a vibrant California.

In order for California to remain competitive in the global economy, it is imperative that the state continues to invest in educating and training more adults to meet the increasing demand for a skilled workforce. Over the last couple of years, the Legislature has promoted and supported the expansion of funding for technology integration for our educational segments. High-speed broadband is a great social equalizer – talent is everywhere and democratic; however, opportunity isn't. This proposal takes advantage of these broadband environments to allow that talent the opportunity to flourish and prepare students for success in a 21st Century digital-age workforce.



Our members rely heavily on effective broadband in order to remain connected, empowered, and dynamic. CENIC is supportive of efforts to promote the use of broadband to achieve educational goals and milestones that strengthen the California economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Louis Fox".

Louis Fox
President & CEO

cc: Members and Staff of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2
Christian Osmena, California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office