



March 16, 2018

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

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

Dear Senators Mitchell and Portantino,

I am writing on behalf of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District to express our full support for efforts to advance higher educational for working adults in California who do not have a college degree. This need was identified by Gov. Jerry Brown in his 2018-19 budget proposal for creating an online community college.

We believe an online or 115th college should be designed as a radically different alternative to current online efforts so that it complements rather than competes with existing community college programs. The suggestion that it focus on assessing students' competencies and prior learning would provide a highly desirable option for adult learners that could be implemented statewide after a successful pilot. The Online Education Initiative (OEI) our district leads could replicate its highly participatory processes to develop a delivery model for voluntarily adoption by individual colleges across California at state expense as it did with Canvas, the learning management system that has now been adopted by all 114 California community colleges.

Taking a new approach to meeting the needs of the 2.5 million working adults who don't have a college degree would expand access to quality higher education for these underserved students while providing the flexibility, affordability and support they need to advance their employment and stay relevant in their jobs and careers.

Please let me know if there is any additional information you may need from me. Thank you for your support of public higher education in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judy C. Miner", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Judy C. Miner, Chancellor
(650) 949-6100
Assistant: Paula Norsell, norsellpaula@fhda.edu