



March 16th, 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,

On behalf of the Education Fund, we offer our support of Governor Brown's 115th community college. The SEIU-UHW Joint Employer Education Fund is a partnership between labor (100,000 healthcare workers) and management (18 employers) dedicated to changing the lives of healthcare workers, by accelerating their careers through education, skills training and career advice.

To better serve our members, we recently completed a deep-dive research project exploring the supply and demand dynamics in the Allied Health Care sector. We gathered input from employers, learners and industry experts to identify the professions, career path trajectories, skills and education models needed now and in the future. It is time for a fully online campus that will deliver skills and industry-valued credentials that working adults need to advance their careers and improve their economic future.

Our employer partners, Dignity Health and Optum 360 are also committed to be advisors in the research and development of healthcare curriculum for a Healthcare Business Services Pathway. Optum360 is a joint venture between Dignity Health and Optum, a UnitedHealth Group organization and fully supports the process of research and development around education, certification and placement within the medical coding community. Additionally, WGU participated as a member of the Steering Committee on our research project and are committed to be advisors to the development of healthcare curriculum and to help address the non-cognitive skills of students to help them succeed in their jobs and careers.

We encourage you to embrace the 115th community college so that more working adults can access the opportunity to improve their lives and those of their families.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Hanson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebecca Hanson
Executive Director
SEIU-UHW & Joint Employer Education Fund



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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