

19 February 2018

Attn.: Senator Holly J. Mitchell (Chair) and Senator Jim Nielsen (Vice Chair)

Cc.:

Senator Joel Anderson
Senator Jim Beall
Senator Steven M. Glazer
Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson
Senator Mike McGuire
Senator Tony Mendoza
Senator Bill Monning
Senator John M. W. Moorlach
Senator Richard Pan
Senator Anthony J. Portantino
Senator Richard D. Roth
Senator Nancy Skinner
Senator Jeff Stone
Senator Bob Wiecekowski
Senator Scott Wilk

Re: California Community College & Governor Brown's 'online' proposal

Please find below the prepared comments that I presented, in part, during the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee hearing on February 8, 2018, in support of Governor Brown's proposed online community college system.

Honorable Chair, Senators, my names is Krishen Laetsch - I have the privilege of being involved with pre college and higher education for almost 30 years – primarily in nonprofit sectors, but not long ago I was with a for profit university system.

We know that large percentages of Community College students work as well as attend school. We know that there are larger numbers of non-traditional age students attending college and we know that most students study between 9pm and 2:am.

Working adults find it nearly impossible to attend traditional on site classes and for-profit universities, that provide online courses, are expensive.

The Governor's digital learning community college proposal addresses a social justice challenge.

At a time when many public and private opportunities for higher education and skills development are out of financial reach, it is the California Community College System that is positioned to advance economic development and social good.

The idea behind the community college digital learning proposal is a salient investment that is sharp, clean and bold. It's not a nice thing to do. It's the right thing. We now have the technology. I hope we have the courage. Thank you for your time.

The use of digital learning as a tool to improve educational outcomes will not eradicate traditional instruction and it is not the complete answer to solve all challenges facing higher education, but just as the first printing press ... it is a start.

Best regards,



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