



April 10, 2018

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA. 95814

Eloy Ortiz Oakley, Chancellor
California Community Colleges
1101 Q Street, 6th Floor
Sacramento, CA. 95811

RE: 2018-19 State Budget: Online Community College – Support Concept

Dear Governor Brown and Chancellor Oakley:

The California Library Association has recently taken a “support concept” position on the 2018-19 Budget proposal pertaining to the Online Community College. The innovative proposal embraces a concept that is the hallmark of public libraries - the benefit and power of lifelong learning opportunities for people of all ages.

The document that was released by the Department of Finance (January 2018) entitled, “Online Community College proposal,” indicates that there could be collaboration *“with other community colleges, other education providers, community-based organizations, employers, unions, and libraries, to enable students of the online college to access in-person support services at other physical locations as needed, including use of a library, computer lab, other labs, and tutoring services.”* Thanks to the funding provided in previous State Budgets, as well as additional funding proposed in the 2018-19 Budget, public libraries have been actively connecting to a high-speed broadband backbone operated by the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC). Over half of the public libraries have connected to CENIC to date, and many more are in progress to connect. With this new speed and capacity, libraries would be appropriate and functional partners for the online community college, to serve as a “physical location” – providing both access to computers and a workspace for studying.

Large numbers of patrons currently use the public libraries for workforce development needs, including using computers to search for jobs, to apply for a position online, or to refresh their resumes. The Governor’s Online Community College proposal then seems to be a natural partner for the public libraries in California.



As you continue to develop certain parameters of the proposal, CLA would respectfully ask that you give consideration to finding ways to identify funding that would help keep the library doors open beyond the traditional 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. “work hours.” Many of the individuals participating in Online Community College may leave work at 5 p.m. and would be in need of a library that stays open a little later, in order to accommodate their schedules.

Lastly, we support efforts to protect the current jobs of community college librarians at existing campuses, as this innovative, new online community college model is created.

CLA looks forward to collaborating on this exciting initiative with you both in the coming months and we thank you for your joint leadership in this area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dolly Goyal", written in a cursive style.

Dolly Goyal, CLA President

cc: Mr. Michael Cohen, Director, State Department of Finance
Mr. Christian Osmena, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Facilities Planning,
California Community Colleges
Mike Dillon and Christina DiCaro, CLA Lobbyists