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Established in 1978 by
David Packard

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,

I am writing on behalf of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group to express the organization's support for Governor Brown's proposal for the 115th community college – a fully online campus that will deliver skills and industry-valued credentials that millions of working adults need to advance their careers and improve their economic futures.

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group, founded in 1978 by David Packard of Hewlett-Packard, represents more than 400 of Silicon Valley's most respected employers on issues that affect the economic vitality and quality of life in Silicon Valley, including energy, transportation, education, housing, health care, tax policy, and the environment. Leadership Group members provide nearly one out of every three private sector jobs in Silicon Valley.

Our member companies champion high-quality education and are committed to ensuring access to the technology and training necessary to enter sustainable, well-paying jobs. In its mission to provide up-to-date, industry relevant coursework, expanded student support services, and new ways of engaging prospective employers, the proposed online community college platform keeps with the California Community Colleges Vision for Success. If the platform leverages the considerable talent of our community college faculty, and taps into existing efforts to engage industry, it will become an effective tool to meet the needs of "stranded" workers and strengthen California's vibrant economy.

We look forward to working with you to ensure the success of the 115th college and on other issues that are important to the Silicon Valley and our state. Thank you for your attention and your leadership on this issue. If you have any questions, please contact our Director of Education Policy, Margaret Daoud-Gray at mgray@svlg.or or (408) 453-4751.

Sincerely,

Carl Guardino
President & CEO
Silicon Valley Leadership Group

CC: Senator Hannah Beth Jackson and Senator John Moorlach