



April 3, 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 Budget Proposal for Online Community College

Dear Senators Mitchell and Portantino,

Orange County Business Council is writing in support of Governor Brown's 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 future.

More than 2.5 million working Californians aged 25 to 34 – of whom 49 percent are Latino, 31 percent white, 9 percent Asian and 7 percent African American – currently cannot access the educational pathways needed for economic mobility. Many are primary household wage earners, work full-time jobs, care for family, and are unable to attend classes at a brick and mortar campus during a traditional academic year.

OCBC supports the Governor's proposal to explore innovative approaches for a redesigned online ecosystem. With the sixth largest economy in the world, it is imperative that California invest in educating and training more adults to meet the increasing demand for a skilled workforce and fuel our growing economy. Our success depends on the workforce of tomorrow, and this proposal, in alignment with existing frameworks such as Doing What Matters- Strong Workforce and Guided Pathways, puts California on a path toward greater prosperity. We encourage you to embrace the 115th Community College so that more workers in your districts can access the opportunity to improve their economic futures.

Thank you,

Lucy Dunn
President and CEO
LD:PC:bb

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