

March 3, 2016



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The Honorable Marty Block
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee 1 on Education
State Capitol, Room 5019
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Benjamin Allen
Member, Senate Budget Subcommittee 1 on Education

The John M. W. Moorlach
Member, Senate Budget Subcommittee 1 on Education

Re: Item number 6870

Hearing date: March 10, 2016

Issue: Career Technical Education

Dear Chairman Block and Members:

On behalf of the California Economic Summit, a partnership between California Forward and the California Stewardship Network, we are writing to support the full funding of \$200 million for the Strong Workforce Program as well as the \$48 million annual commitment to the Career Technical Education Pathways Program outlined in the proposed Budget Act of 2016.

For the last three years, the Summit has supported increased investment in career technical education (CTE) programs—and pushed the state to allocate these funds across regional economies and industry clusters, instead of diffusing them among all community colleges. The Summit's goal has been to connect more workers with well-paying jobs by promoting collaboration between employers and regions' vast network of workforce training programs, from K-12 schools and community colleges to workforce development boards and community-based organizations.

Several Summit leaders were asked to serve on last year's Strong Workforce Task Force, commissioned by the Community College Board of Governors, which issued 25 recommendations for closing California's growing "skills" gap—a shortage of more than one million workers with middle-skilled credentials. The Summit's 2016 Roadmap to Shared Prosperity outlines an action plan for taking on this challenge, and the Summit network has committed to supporting implementation of the Task Force recommendations.

The Summit will be working with the Legislature in 2016 to accomplish this through the following vehicles:

- **Support Budget Act of 2016 provisions** that provide full funding \$200 million for the Strong Workforce Program, \$48 million for the Career Technical Education Pathways Program, and \$25 million to the Awards for Innovation in Higher Education.
- **Support AB 1892 (Medina)** to restructure CalGrant C financial aid for vocation education so more students from different backgrounds can take advantage of quality career technical education programs.
- **Support SB 66 (Levy)** to implement Task Force recommendations on measuring student employment outcomes.

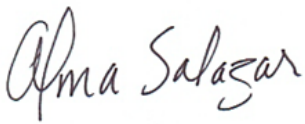
As your Committee considers career technical education proposals in the Budget Act of 2016, Summit leaders believe two investments, in particular, are of critical importance. With \$200 million in funding, the new Strong Workforce Program outlined in the budget will allow community colleges to expand access to career technical education courses and programs, while evolving regional coordination as recommended by the Task Force. This program will be strengthened by the budget's \$48 million investment in the Career Technical Education Pathways Program, an existing program that has already begun to increase collaboration between K-12 schools and community colleges. The Summit supported this program when it was first created in 2012—and supports efforts to make it permanent.

As the Committee considers trailer bill language for these programs, the Summit believes these important principles should serve as the foundation for investments in career technical education. Programs should:

- Nurture the regional coordination amongst colleges that is already expanding under the guidance of the regional consortia created by Doing What MATTERS for Jobs and Economy.
- Streamline course and curriculum approval both at the state and local levels—and consider eliminating the state process for career technical education. Industry must be engaged early and often to ensure career technical education curricula remain relevant. Curriculum portability is also vital, and when one region's faculty and its employers approve a curriculum model, the same model should be considered approved for us by all other interested community colleges.
- Eliminate barriers to hiring qualified career technical education instructors, including re-evaluating the required minimum qualification.
- Establish priorities for the use of the regional fund:
 1. CTE to meet needs of priority and emerging industry sectors
 2. CTE with labor market need and proven “student success with labor market outcomes”
 3. CTE with labor market need and that meets a societal need
 4. CTE with labor market need that completes a structured pathway, either from secondary to post-secondary or adult education to post-secondary.

For more information about the Summit and its 2016 Roadmap to Shared Prosperity, please contact Justin Ewers (justin@cafwd.org; 916-244-1595).

We look forward to working together in the year ahead.



Alma Salazar
Workforce Action Team Co-lead
Vice President, Education and Workforce
Development, Los Angeles Area Chamber of
Commerce



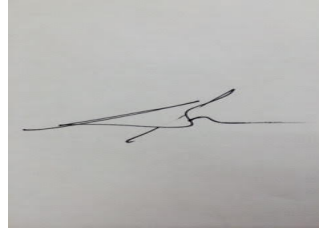
Laurie Madigan
California Economic Summit Steering
Committee Co-chair and
California Forward



Chris Harrington
Advancing Manufacturing Action Team co-
lead and Toshiba (retired)



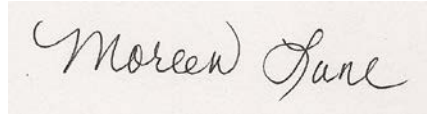
Mike Betts
Chairman & CEO
Betts Company



Gustavo Herrera
Western Regional Director,
Young Invincible



Jo Marie Diamond
President and CEO
East County Economic Development Council
(San Diego)



Moreen Lane
California State Deputy Director
ReadyNation



Mike Dozier
Lead Executive, The California Partnership of
the San Joaquin Valley



Mary Ann Leffel
President
Monterey County Business Council



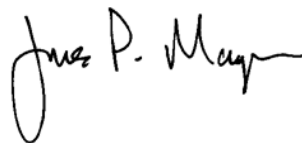
Rose Filcetti
Community Member



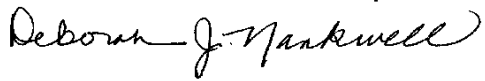
Janeth Manjarrez
CTE EF Director for LA-OC
Community Colleges, Rancho Santiago
Community College District



Steven Glycer
Chair, Los Angeles Orange County
Regional Consortia California Community
Colleges



James P. Mayer
President and CEO, California Forward



Deborah Nankivell
CEO, Fresno Business Council



Alexa Smittle
RSG



Daniel Newell
Workforce/Econ Development
San Jose State University



Ben Stone
Executive Director, Sonoma County Economic
Development Board



Craig Watson
Executive Director, California Arts Council



Eloy Ortiz Oakley
President
Long Beach City College

/S/
Pat Gordon,
Manager, Human Resources
JBT FoodTech



/S/
Todd Haag
Principal, Chaffey Adult School,
Chaffey Joint Union High School District

Kate Roberts
President
Monterey Bay Economic Partnership

/S/
Cory E. Thomas-Fisk
CMT Professor
Cosumnes River College

CC:

Jeff Bell, Program Budget Manager, Department of Finance

Cheryl Black, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus

Natasha Collins, Fiscal & Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office

Craig Cornett, Chief Fiscal Policy Advisor, Senate President pro Tempore

Anita Lee, Consultant (Community Colleges), Senate Budget Subcommittee 1 on Education

Elisa Wynne, Consultant (K-12), Senate Budget Subcommittee 1 on Education