2016-17 BUDGET POINTS

MAY 2016

STRENGTHENING CALIFORNIA'S WORKFORCE BY INVESTING IN COMMUNITY COLLEGES

The Governor's May Revision recognizes the indispensable role California Community Colleges play in developing the state's workforce, closing achievement gaps, and providing educational access to all Californians.

ACCESS

- $114.7 million (2%) to expand access to nearly 50,000 additional students in districts with growing demand.

SUCCESS

- **Basic Skills** – $30 million as an ongoing investment in colleges to close achievement gaps through initiatives transitioning students from basic skills to college-level programs.

    Our Ask: *We support a proposal that ensures colleges adopt proven and effective practices without penalizing those who serve traditionally disadvantaged students. We do not believe performance-based funding supports student success. Recent research indicates that performance-based funding may actually hurt economically disadvantaged students.*

- **Zero-Textbook Cost Degrees** – $5 million to develop degrees, certificates, and credential programs with zero-textbook-costs to students.

    Our Ask: *To enhance college affordability, the League supports efforts to address the escalating costs of textbooks through the use of open educational resources (OER).*

QUALITY

- **General Operating/Base Funding** – $75 million in ongoing resources to increase the quality of our programs and address growing operational costs.

- **Mandate Claims** – $105.5 million one-time funds in mandate repayments to restore lost purchasing power.

- **Institutional Effectiveness** – $10 million to promote professional development and advance technical support to colleges through the Institutional Effectiveness initiative.

- **Equal Employment Opportunity Program** – $2.3 million to support policies that promote diverse and inclusive hiring practices.

    Our Ask: *We strongly support the recognition that investing in the core operations of colleges through a base augmentation promotes academic quality, effectiveness, and meets the diverse needs of our students.*

INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Maintenance and Instructional Equipment** – $219.4 million (one-time funds) for deferred maintenance, instructional equipment, and specified water conservation projects.

- **Online Education Initiative** – $20 million in one-time funds to improve access to quality online education courses.

- **Technology Infrastructure/Data Security** – $15 million for data security enhancements and upgrades.

    Our Ask: *We support the use of one-time funds as an opportunity to offset costs of launching or expanding programs and to address aging infrastructure.*

INVESTING IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- **Strong Workforce** – $200 million to support the Strong Workforce Program and to expand career technical education (CTE) courses and programs.

    Our Ask: *We support strengthening regional collaboration but encourage the majority of resources to flow through districts, which ultimately provide core workforce programs to Californians.*

LEAGUE BUDGET PRIORITY
Support the critical investment in the totality of student academic supports
and college quality by funding general operating expenses.

INVEST IN OUR FUTURE NOW!

We are grateful for a proposal that recognizes the continuous need to increase the quality of our education programs and the substantial fiscal challenges that districts face in coming years due to the cost of maintaining educational quality, PERS and STRS increases, and the upcoming sunset of Proposition 30.

> **Alone, STRS and PERS contribution costs are estimated to increase to approximately $400 million annually by 2021.**

SYSTEM	FUNDING AMOUNT
K-12	$11,107
UC	$24,788
CSU	$14,120
CCC	$7,897

INVEST IN HIGHER PER-STUDENT FUNDING AND GENERAL OPERATIONS

Fiscal sustainability requires a base augmentation for districts confronting rapidly growing pension obligations and to ensure the health and safety of our students and college campuses. These funds are critical to the future stability of colleges.

KEY POLICY POINTS

ADVANCING A STRONG WORKFORCE

The Governor's Budget recognizes the return on investment that the California Community College Strong Workforce Program will provide. This investment provides an exceptional opportunity to serve more students and prepare our colleges to offer the programs that individuals will seek should California face another recession. The implementation plan should support regional collaboration but provide greater subsidiarity – allocating the dollars closest to the providers of core services. We also oppose placing an arbitrary cap on ongoing district spending that can affect core services.

SUPPORTING PROVEN PRACTICES IN BASIC SKILLS

We support the renewed focus on closing achievement gaps through a long-term investment in basic skills. Students that enter college requiring remedial education will take longer to complete their degree. By deploying resources supporting data-informed practices and programs we can effectively transition students to college-level courses and ultimately, degree completion.

IMPROVING COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

While the Board of Governors Fee Waiver is the most robust tuition-relief program in the nation, aid for community college students to cover non-tuition college costs - such as textbooks, transportation, food, and housing – is insufficient, affecting low-income students more severely. Despite comprising two-thirds of the California higher education population, community college students receive only seven percent of the Cal Grant resources. The lack of adequate financial aid leads students to take fewer classes, extending their time to graduation, and ultimately finding college unaffordable and a degree unattainable. Increasing grant aid by increasing the number of competitive Cal Grants or the access award to cover non-tuition costs can solve the affordability challenge.

MEETING DEMAND FOR CLASSES

The League is grateful for the Governor's investment of over $100 million to serve 50,000 new students. This new investment will allow colleges to increase course offerings in areas with growing demand.