



July 14, 2017

Board of Governors
Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley
California Community Colleges
1102 Q Street, 6th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Members of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors and Chancellor Oakley,

I am pleased to express the support of the College Futures Foundation for the report, *Vision for Success*, the strategic vision for the California Community Colleges that the Board will discuss at its July 17 meeting.

At College Futures Foundation, we believe improving college achievement is central to California's future, and that college success should be an option for every student. With more college graduates, we open the door to a thriving economy and more vibrant communities.

As the *Vision* notes, the California Community Colleges are indispensable to California's workforce and overall welfare, and I commend the Chancellor and the Board for seeking to understand what the state needs from this system—the largest system of higher education in the world.

College Futures Foundation's mission is to increase the rate of bachelor's degree completion by California students who are low-income and those who have been traditionally underrepresented in higher education. Today, almost two thirds of California's public school students fall into this category. The economic and civic future of our state is synonymous with their success. In that light, I would like to particularly commend the *Vision's* goal of increasing the annual number of CCC students who transfer to the CSU and UC by 35 percent. This is a bold objective that is critical to students' ability to realize their aspirations, but with sustained collaboration among California's three public systems it is both laudable and reachable.

Californians care deeply about the future of their community colleges, and the goals and principles recommended in the vision are an important commitment to our State, its residents, and our collective future.

Sincerely,

Phillippe Wallace,
Interim President and CEO