



GAVIN NEWSOM
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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 lend my support for the *Vision for Success* report, the strategic vision for the California Community Colleges that the Board will discuss at its July 17 meeting.

The California Master Plan for Higher Education helped lead our state to greatness. However, I have been concerned that the three segments of public higher education are no longer working collaboratively towards shared state goals, but rather operating within their own silos.

We are so consumed by situational questions that we neglect long-term thinking. It's our job to reimagine what a 21st century system of higher education looks like, one that respects the respective missions of the three segments, but that also meets the demands of a world that's changing – and one that provides opportunity for all California children, regardless of what zip code they live in. The *Vision for Success* report begins to tackle this central challenge.

California's community colleges are the backbone of our economy, educating more than 2.3 million students on 114 campuses. 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.

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 to our collective future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom", written over a horizontal line.

Gavin Newsom
Lieutenant Governor

