



Office of Government Relations

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

December 2015 Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

**Legislative Session
Begins:** January 4

**UC Transfer Application
Due:** January 4 (Extended
from Nov. 30)

**Board of Governors
Chancellor Search
Committee:** December 10
in Los Angeles

**Board of Governors
Meeting:** January 19 – 20
in Sacramento.

Consultation Council:
January 21 in Sacramento.

**Annual League
Conference:** January 31 –
February 1 in Sacramento

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Have an event you would like
to highlight? Send event info
to ryan@ccleague.org.

Potential Policy Issues to Impact Community Colleges

With the start of the second year of the 2015-16 legislative session, it is time to start looking at public policy issues under consideration by members of the state legislature during this session. Following are some issues that legislators may be considering that will impact our colleges and students.

Workforce Development

With the release of the Strong Workforce Report and a significant system budget request of \$200 million, many legislators have expressed interest in authoring legislation impacting CTE programs. The Governor, Department of Finance and legislators will all be considering implementation of reform options that are presented in the report. These include: financing CTE, alignment of standards, Cal Grant C awards, course approval, and others.

College Affordability

President Obama's proposal to make community college tuition free for all Americans has raised the profile of issues surrounding the costs of attendance. While our institutions offer the very generous BOG fee waiver and the lowest tuition in the nation, California community college students still face significant financial barriers to higher education. College leaders in California have expressed interest in expanding the conversation to include other burdensome student costs. Next year, legislation will likely address financial aid, textbooks, open educational resources and other college affordability topics.

Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association

On January 11, the US Supreme Court will hear *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association*, a case involving a union's right to collect fees from non-members. Depending on the court's ruling, this could dramatically reduce the revenue that a public employee union can collect from its membership. In the final days of the 2015 legislative year, a proposal was being discussed that would grant union representatives 30 minutes with public employees to discuss the benefits of union membership. This mandatory union orientation proposal was nearly identical to one imposed on In-Home Support Services (IHSS) care providers early in the 2015 legislative session. The proposal also would require existing contracts to be reopened for purposes of negotiating employer programs for current employees during which bargaining unit

representatives can provide information on the benefits of union membership. Expect a legislative effort to mitigate a potential Supreme Court decision that in part or in whole sides with the plaintiffs.

Facilities

The Kindergarten through Community College Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2016, which would authorize the sale of \$9 billion in general obligation bonds, including \$2 billion for community college capital outlay projects, has qualified for the November 2016 General Election ballot. However, the Administration has been unwilling to support additional statewide debt in this area. Additionally, organizations negotiating a Proposition 30 extension proposal are concerned the initiative would pull votes from any tax extension ballot measure. We can expect discussion around a smaller bond with a needs-based focus as a potential alternative instead of a large-scale bond based on the current facilities program.

Contacting the League Staff

League staff will be working hard next year to ensure that decision makers will know the impact of their efforts on the colleges and students. Please direct any questions regarding the above topics or other issues to the League's legislative team at either lizette@ccleague.org or ryan@ccleague.org.

League Releases Analysis of LAO 2016-17 Fiscal Outlook

On November 18th, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) released its [2016-17 Fiscal Outlook](#), a report that projects revenue generated for the 2016-17 fiscal year. Overall it was a positive report with the LAO projecting a growing economy and additional revenue for the state. The LAO projected that Proposition 98 will see an increase of \$2.3 billion, or about 3%. Assuming community colleges receive the traditional 11 percent statutory split, the overall community budget can potentially increase by nearly \$400 million. The LAO revenue estimates are generally higher than those used by the Governor and Department of Finance, and even those adopted in the Budget Act. The Fiscal Outlook serves as a preview of the upcoming budget discussions.

A key point to share includes the availability of significant one-time resources, estimated at \$253 million in 2016-17, which provides an opportunity to think strategically about programmatic needs both in technology infrastructure and in curriculum and resources development. The report reminds us that colleges will need to continue to focus on long-term cost pressures. The League's primary analysis is to be cautious of the state's heavy reliance on personal income tax, especially since much of the growth comes from Bay Area technology industries. Based on the forecasted economic conditions and long-term cost pressures, the League advises districts to exercise optimistic restraint.

For more on the fiscal outlook, click [here](#) for the League's analysis. If you have questions, please contact Legislative Advocate, Lizette Navarette at lizette@ccleague.org. To stay up to date on news related to budget and policy, go to the [League's Budget and Policy Center](#).

Exciting 2016 Legislative Conference Ahead

Please plan on joining community college advocates at the League's annual legislative conference in Sacramento, January 31 – February 1, 2016. The conference will include important issues impacting community colleges with panelists with expertise ranging from workforce development to effective enrollment growth management. In addition to break out sessions, the League is excited to have two distinguished general session speakers: Mindy Romero, Director of the California Civic Engagement Project; and David Baime, Senior Vice President for Government Relations at the

American Association of Community Colleges. See below for their biographies; to register for the conference click [here](#).



David Baime, Senior Vice President for Government Relations and Research for the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC).

In this role, he directs the national advocacy efforts for the nation's 1,200 community colleges and their students. Prior to joining AACC, he served as director of education funding for the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. He has also worked as assistant director of government relations for the Association of American Medical Colleges. Baime has made a number of radio, television, and Web appearances, including on CNN, MSNBC, C-SPAN, and National Public Radio, and is frequently quoted in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Inside Higher Ed*, and other education

publications. Baime holds a bachelor's degree from Haverford College and a master's degree in economics from the London School of Economics.



Mindy Romero, Founder and Director of the California Civic Engagement Project (CCEP) at the UC Davis Center for Regional Change.

Romero is a political sociologist and holds a Ph.D. in sociology from UC Davis. Her scholarly work focuses on the intersection of political behavior and race/ethnicity. Romero has been invited to speak about civic engagement and political rights in numerous venues, and has recently provided testimony to the National Commission on Voting Rights and the California Legislature. Her research has been cited in numerous major news outlets, including the *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Politico* and the *Huffington Post*. A native of California's Central Valley, Romero is also active in

community leadership. She currently serves as president of the board of Mutual Housing California, and is vice chair of the Social Service Commission for the City of Davis.

Must Read

Rising Tide: Do College Grad Rate Gains Benefit All Students? - Kimberlee Eberle-Sudre, Meredith Welch, and Andrew Howard Nichols. The Education Trust. December 2015.

This report surveys a variety of four-year higher education institutions that are focusing on increasing completion rates and reminds readers that:

- While higher completion/graduation rates are to be celebrated, the focus must include closing the achievement gap for students from underrepresented groups.
- The gains achieved in the studied colleges are not occurring nearly fast enough. This nation is nowhere near on track to close longstanding gaps between students from underrepresented groups and white students.
- The data for individual institutions make it clear that institutional actions matter a great deal. Some are achieving the twin goals of gains in overall completion and closing gaps; however, others "ride the tide" of overall gains while students from underrepresented groups lose ground and gaps widen.

Read the full report at: http://edtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/TheRisingTide_120115.pdf

CEO Changes

Each month League staff provides information about movement of CEOs between colleges or toward retirement.

Deborah Budd, president of Berkeley City College, will be the next chancellor at San Jose Evergreen CCD. Her starting date is January 25.

Kristin Clark will be the new CEO at West Hills Lemoore, with a starting date of January 5th.

Celia Esposito-Noy has been appointed superintendent/president of the Solano CCD. She replaces Jowel Laguerre who is the new chancellor at Peralta CCD.

Kathryn Jeffery, president of Sacramento City College, has been appointed superintendent/president of Santa Monica College. She replaces Chui Tsang who retired in June.

Erlinda Martinez, president of Santa Ana College, will retire on December 31.

For more information, contact the League's Government Relations staff:

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