

February 19, 2015

Dear Trustee

As trustees of a California community college, we all struggle with the college budget. In light of the recent cutbacks due to reduced repeatability, our budgets are increasingly difficult to balance. The vocational classes, such as dental hygiene, nursing, culinary arts, and radiology, often cost us more to provide than we receive in ftes compensation. These vocational classes lead to immediate employment as well as valuable community services. This is one of our core missions, vocational training, yet we can only maintain these high cost programs with serious cuts to other areas on campus.

Enclosed is a resolution recently passed by the trustees at Cabrillo College, outlining the problem, the rationale, and the urgency for new funding formulas for high cost vocational classes. Our president Laurel Jones has sent the differential funding resolution on to Chancellor Brice Harris. Please ask your fellow board members to support this differential funding resolution, and then request your president to forward it on to our Chancellor's system office.

Once we have the support of our 112 community colleges, we will then proceed to our legislature for critical changes in the funding of high cost vocational classes.

Thank You,

Rachael Spencer
Trustee, Cabrillo College



**Resolution 059-14 of the Cabrillo College District Board of Trustees in Support of Changes to
Community College Funding to Include Differential Funding for High Cost Career
Technical Education Programs**

- 1) WHEREAS, California Community Colleges have built extensive depth and breadth of educational programs over the past 50 years that provide for certificated and degree employment, responding to the educational needs of their respective communities, and contributing to a skilled workforce that in turn, provides the economic vitality necessary for the next few decades and delivers upon the national and state mandates for a qualified workforce;
- 2) WHEREAS, 2013-14 Assembly bill (AB977) requested that the CCC Chancellor convene a group of experts in Career Technical Education, business, or industry to research ways to address issues related to implementing differential funding for credit bearing, high cost, high- demand courses at the community colleges;
- 3) WHEREAS, for the community colleges, credit courses are currently funded at \$4,636 per full-time equivalent student (FTES), non-credit courses are funded at \$2,788 per FTES, and 'enhanced non-credit' courses are funded at \$3,283 per FTES;
- 4) WHEREAS, many of Cabrillo College's Career Technical Education (CTE) programs receive less in FTES funding than they cost to operate with some healthcare related programs funded at only one-quarter to one-half of their actual operating costs;
- 5) WHEREAS, a recent report by the Institute for Higher Education Leadership Policy found that California's current funding structure creates a fiscal disincentive to support high cost programs;
- 6) WHEREAS, the California Community Colleges System Strategic Plan 2013 update states in Strategic Goal C: "Partnerships for Economic and Workforce Development strengthen the Colleges' capacity to respond to current and emerging labor market needs and to prepare students for a global economy;"
- 7) WHEREAS, the Donahoe Higher Education Act states: "A primary mission of the California Community Colleges is to advance California's economic growth and global competitiveness through education, training, and services that contribute to continuous work force improvement," and further states "The California Community Colleges shall, as a primary mission, offer academic and vocational instruction at the lower division level;"
- 8) WHEREAS, the Economic and Workforce Development (EWD) program within the CCC Chancellor's Office exists to bridge the gap between workforce needs and skills training provided by the community colleges and therefore is a priority of local and state businesses;
- 9) THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cabrillo Community College District requests additional support of high cost, high demand career technical education programs through differential funding that can allay the increased cost of performing the services necessary for a college student to earn a certificate or degree; and which can allay the high cost due to mandated low teacher to student ratios, high equipment and maintenance costs. Cabrillo College supports legislation that would secure differential funding for necessary career technical education demand.

Approved: _____


Donna Ziel, Board Chair

Date: December 8, 2014

Ayes: Ziel, Spencer, Banks, Reece, Cuevas and Carrillo

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Smith