



THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

March 9, 2020

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
2358B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairs DeLauro and Blunt and Ranking Members Cole and Murray:

On behalf of the University of California (UC), the California State University (CSU) and the California Community Colleges (CCC), as well as the nearly 2.9 million students our institutions serve, we write to thank you for last year's final appropriations measures, which increased investments in critical Education Department programs for Fiscal Year 2020. We are particularly grateful for increases in student aid programs like the Pell Grant and boosts to programs that help build capacity at minority-serving institutions. As the Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations process gets underway, we once again urge you to prioritize robust funding for the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations measure and continued investment growth in programs that bolster student access and success.

California's commitment to public higher education ensures that all Californians have access to high-quality and affordable education and training opportunities. Together, our institutions represent the largest system of higher education in the nation. Our most visible work involves educating the next-generation workforce and fostering future entrepreneurs and inventors; however, our joint mission extends far beyond the classroom. Every day, our institutions conduct groundbreaking research that shapes California's response to wildfires, drought, emerging diseases and technological challenges. In traditional classroom settings and through emerging learning techniques, our systems provide opportunities for traditional and non-traditional students alike to gain the skills necessary to thrive in the global economy. The graduates, inventions and spinoff companies—and high-tech

industries—that emerge from California’s public higher education system drive the innovation economy in our state and the nation.

Ensuring that California’s public higher education system provides opportunity for all students, regardless of background or income, and continues to be a global innovation leader is paramount to the continued growth and prosperity of our state and nation. At the core of the upward mobility that higher education provides is the federal student aid that—in combination with state and institutional support—provides our students with the means to attend and succeed at institutions of higher education.

For FY 2021, we urge increased and sustained investments in the following Department of Education programs.

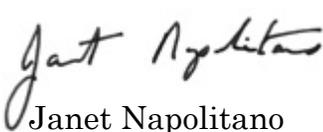
- **Pell Grant Funding.** Pell Grants are specifically intended to benefit low-income students, and provide key support to hundreds of thousands of students at all three of our systems. Even with recent increases, the purchasing power of the Pell Grant stands well below historic levels. In 1975, the maximum grant covered nearly 80% of the average cost of a public four-year college; today it covers less than 30%. By increasing the maximum grant, Congress can forestall further erosion to a program that supports access, completion and the basic needs of students in California and across the nation. We request that the maximum annual Pell Grant be increased to at least \$7,000, and that any surplus funds be retained for future program needs or improvements.
- **Campus-Based Aid Programs.** In addition to the Pell Grant, the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) and Federal Work-Study (FWS) provide the most financially vulnerable students with additional support to obtain their degree. These programs are administered at the campus level, giving campus financial aid offices some flexibility in administering this supplemental aid. We request that SEOG be funded at \$1.052 billion, and that FWS be allocated \$1.467 billion.
- **Pipeline Programs.** While many of our priorities center on the education a student receives while attending our institutions, the value that K-12 pipeline programs bring to higher education cannot be overstated. The federal GEAR UP and TRIO programs bring students from underserved communities into an environment that fosters academic achievement, reduces the barriers to entry to postsecondary education, and encourages persistence and success. Increased investments in these programs will ensure

that more students who are eligible for GEAR UP and TRIO have access to quality programming oriented toward prospective students' success in higher education. We request \$400 million for GEAR UP and \$1.15 billion for TRIO.

- **Capacity-Building at Minority-Serving Institutions.** Our systems reflect California's tremendous diversity, and many of our institutions are designated as Hispanic-Serving (HSI) and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving (AANAPISI). Increasing this funding will further support our efforts to expand educational opportunities, improve attainment and enhance quality. We request \$170 million for Title V, Part A (HSI); \$35 million for Title V, Part B (HSI Graduate Programs); and \$30 million for Title III, Part A (AANAPISI).

Thank you for your consideration. These important investments will help us achieve the mission of California public higher education. If you have any questions about our institutions or these programs, please contact our federal governmental relations staff. At UC, contact Chris Harrington ([Chris.Harrington@ucdc.edu](mailto:Chris.Harrington@ucdc.edu), (202) 974-6314); at CSU, contact Jim Gelb ([JGelb@calstate.edu](mailto:JGelb@calstate.edu), (202) 434-8060); and at CCC, contact Lizette Navarette ([LNavarette@cccco.edu](mailto:LNavarette@cccco.edu), (916) 324-9508).

Yours very truly,



Janet Napolitano  
President  
University of California



Timothy P. White  
Chancellor  
California State University



Eloy Ortiz Oakley  
Chancellor  
California Community Colleges

cc: California Congressional Delegation