

Afterword

Neither the recommendations of this study nor the recommendations that the California Education Round Table will make in the next 12 to 18 months will “solve” the problems of California postsecondary education. The situation that existed in 1960 when the Master Plan was formulated was fundamentally different from today’s situation and, we project, what will exist in the future. Different task forces will have to be formed to design appropriate responses to specific recommendations. And all must be done soon, since there is a window of opportunity of only three to five years in which to get the new California postsecondary system working right. After that, the demographic and revenue challenges we have identified may well

overwhelm the state’s ability to respond positively. Time is of the essence.

We are clear on which players must come together in partnership to address the overall task. The higher education leaders—embodied by the California Education Round Table—the state’s business leaders, and the governor and state legislators are all essential for meeting the challenges that lie ahead for California higher education. ♦