



THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

November 18, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Republican Leader McCarthy, Republican Leader McConnell, and Democratic Leader Schumer:

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 urge you to provide robust funding in the final Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations Labor-HHS-Education measure to support critical education programs. We appreciate Congress's decision earlier this year to raise the defense and non-defense spending caps for FY 2020 and FY 2021. Consistent with the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019, which provides for an overall \$27 billion increase in non-defense appropriations for FY 2020, we ask that you proportionately increase the subcommittee's 302(b) funding level and substantially increase investments in programs that bolster student access and success. We also urge you to finalize all FY 2020 appropriations as soon as possible to allow agencies and funding recipients to plan and program as efficiently and effectively as possible.

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 our state's growth and continued prosperity. 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 2020, we urge increased investments in the following Department of Education programs:

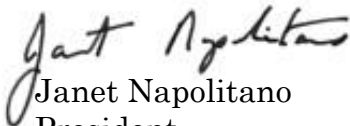
- **Pell Grant Funding.** Pell Grants are specifically intended to benefit low-income students, and provide key support to hundreds of thousands of students at all three of our systems. By increasing the maximum Pell Grant, Congress can begin to reverse decades of erosion to a program of unparalleled importance to students in California and across the nation. We request that the maximum annual Pell Grant be increased to \$6,345, 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 and Work-Study provide the most financially-vulnerable students with additional support in obtaining 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 \$1.028 billion, and that Work-Study be allocated \$1.434 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 \$395 million for GEAR UP and \$1.12 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 enhance our efforts to expand educational opportunities, improve attainment and enhance program quality. We request \$150 million for Title V, Part A (HSI); \$30 million for Title V, Part B (HSI Graduate Programs); and \$30 million for Title III, Part A (AANAPISI).

Thank you for your consideration. These and other 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, 202-974-6314); at CSU, contact Jim Gelb (JGelb@calstate.edu, 202-434-8060); and at CCC, contact Laura Metune (LMetune@cccco.edu, 916-323-5951).

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