Cabrillo College
Legislative Platform & Talking Points
March 6, 2013

- The Cabrillo Community College District is grateful for the passage of Proposition 30, which will provide restoration funding to Cabrillo and community colleges statewide. Last year community colleges in California turned away approximately 500,000 students. Cabrillo’s enrollment has shrunk by approximately 3,000 students since 2008-9. Cabrillo believes in improving our completion rates with a commitment to quality of education, in three core areas: Basic Skills, Transfer, and Career and Technical Education (CTE). We welcome the $197 million in proposed new funding to the California Community College system. For this new funding, key areas of need include:
  - A funded cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to begin restoration of lost COLA.
  - Restoration funding for student success initiatives and the overall quality of instruction services.
  - Funding for enrollment demand in core areas for student success.

Shortened: Cabrillo is grateful for the passage of Proposition 30. We recommend directing additional funds toward continued improvements in the quality of education that result in student success, and addressing our softening enrollment.

- While Cabrillo supports and is in the process of implementing the reforms outlined in SB 1440 (streamlined the transfer pathway from community colleges to CSU) and SB 1456, (established a Student Success Task Force that released a report with a number of recommendations for the system to undertake), Cabrillo opposes the Governor’s proposal to place a 90-unit cap on community college students. We are aligning our systems in support of the 100-unit cap recommended by the Student Success Task Force, however the first effects of will not be realized until Fall 2014. We’d like time to see how that 100-unit cap works for our students, before further reducing the cap to 90 units.
  - Several of our transfer-ready students in more demanding majors have had to take many pre-requisites, placing them at or above 100 units.
  - The 90-unit cap would limit students’ ability to come back to Cabrillo for retraining, which is an essential role of community colleges in this current economy.

Shortened: Cabrillo supports the recommendations of the Student Success Task Force, including the 100-unit cap. We are in the process of implementing those reforms and oppose additional reforms until the effects of the 100-unit cap take effect, in Fall 2014.

- Issues around the Governor’s proposed census/completion reform are complex and require additional discussion between the Chancellor’s Office and the Administration to clarify intentions in meeting our shared goal of increasing student success.
Cabrillo does not support the Governor's proposal for the funding of adult education in its current form. We do support augmented funding for community colleges to focus on the following three areas:

- Basic skills
- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Short-term vocational programs

Focusing this funding on critical needs in basic skills, ESL and short-term vocational programs will allow community colleges to be innovative in addressing the high number of students that are not college-ready.

Shortened: Cabrillo supports the additional funding to community colleges, however it is not sufficient to cover what is needed for adult education. Instead, we support an alternative that would supplement what we are already doing in basic skills, ESL and short-term vocational programs.