

The Campaign for
**College
Opportunity**

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The Education Trust—West

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The Latino Legal Voice for Civil Rights in America.

December 4, 2012

Dr. Timothy P. White
California State University
401 Golden Shore St.
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Chancellor White:

We, the undersigned, write to express our congratulations on your recent appointment to serve as Chancellor of the California State University (CSU) system.

We have all been proud to support and work with the CSU system to increase college opportunity and success for students seeking an education at one of the 23 campuses.

In 2010, we all came together to support the CSU and California Community Colleges historic student-centered transfer reform legislation, SB 1440, and we are currently working side by side on its implementation. We have collectively supported the CSU on the Graduation Initiative and other efforts to increase the enrollment of underrepresented students – believing wholly in the need to improve overall graduation rates at the CSU campuses while simultaneously closing the achievement gap for under-represented minority students.

We recognize that you inherit the system during a tumultuous time. Over the past decade, the CSU has grown tremendously while simultaneously facing severe budget cuts. This past year alone, the system sustained \$750 million in reduced state support and was forced to deny enrollment to 25,000 otherwise eligible students.

In this era of budget cuts which have resulted in enrollment caps, impacted campuses, impacted programs and majors, heightened affordability challenges and unplanned tuition hikes, strong leadership is needed from you and each of us are ready to work hard alongside you.

During the Chancellor search process, we submitted a list of priorities for the Board of Trustees to consider while selecting a new Chancellor. It is our pleasure to share those priorities with you.

As Chancellor we hope you will:



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1. Provide courageous and visionary leadership to expand and deepen the implementation of the CSU Graduation Initiative, **requiring** local campuses to improve graduation rates and close equity gaps for Latino, Black, and Asian Pacific Islander students;
2. Be committed to strengthening the intersegmental coordination and cooperation between the CSU and the Community College and K-12 system. Specifically, we hope you will champion rigorous implementation of historic transfer reform, ensuring a streamlined pathway for students from community colleges to the CSU while improving success rates for transfer students. And that you will work closely with the new Community College Chancellor to ensure that SB 1440 becomes the preferred pathway for transfer among students and that all SB 1440 students are indeed, guaranteed a spot in the CSU system and earn their Bachelor of Arts degree;
3. Prioritize limited resources to provide the greatest possible enrollment of eligible California students in the CSU while significantly improving student success as measured by persistence, retention, and graduation rates;
4. Relieve the uncertainty facing students and families by working towards a fee policy that ensures tuition increases are moderate and predictable.

We applaud the CSU Board of Trustees for selecting a proven leader who can take the helm of the CSU during this time. We trust that like us, you will not be satisfied with preserving the status quo and will demonstrate a commitment to building the political will to move forward student centered reforms.

Our broad coalition awaits opportunities to engage more deeply with you to ensure California has the educated workforce it needs to remain economically competitive.

We would like to schedule a meeting with you after you settle in your new position at the end of this year. Michele Siqueiros, Executive Director with the Campaign for College Opportunity will follow up to coordinate.

We look forward to sitting down with you and being helpful in your new role.

Sincerely,



Michele Siqueiros
Executive Director
Campaign for College Opportunity



Allan Zaremberg
President & CEO
California Chamber of Commerce



Arun Ramanathan
Executive Director
Education Trust West



Deborah Santiago
Vice President for Policy & Research
Excelencia in Education



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NCLR



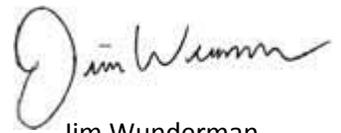
Robert Shireman
Executive Director
California Competes



Gary Toebben
President & CEO
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce



Paul Granillo
President & CEO
Inland Empire Economic Partnership



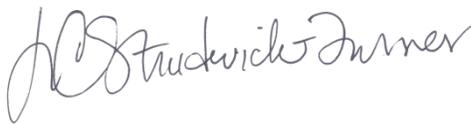
Jim Wunderman
President & CEO
Bay Area Council



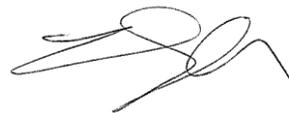
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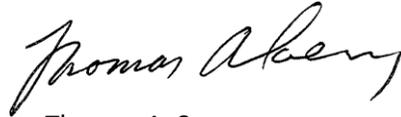
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