



Media Contact: Audrey Dow  
213-744-9434 (office)  
310-402-8858 (mobile)

January 7, 2016

**STATEMENT ON GOVERNOR BROWN'S 2016-17 BUDGET PROPOSAL**  
**Colleges and Universities in CA receive over half a billion dollar boost**

***Administration says commitments to student success must be kept by colleges & universities***

Governor Jerry Brown's 2016-17 budget proposal increases funding for the state's public colleges and universities by \$596 million while making ongoing investments in access and student success.

The Governor proposes encouraging investments in California Community Colleges, including expanding enrollment funding by 2% to serve an additional 50,000 students, \$248 million for programs that support career technical education and student transition to the workforce, and \$25 million for Innovation Awards to—among other things—improve transfer pathways. Particularly encouraging is the \$30 million proposal to continue investment in better preparing students for college level work.

The budget proposal adds \$174 million from the General Fund to the University of California (UC) and \$151 million to the California State University (CSU) budgets. For the fifth year in a row, the Administration expects the UC and CSU to hold tuition flat for students. The Governor is also very clear that delivering on commitments to improve time to degree, transfer, and remedial education are key to future funding for the state's universities.

"We applaud Governor Brown for proposing more money for California colleges and universities with the expectation that they maintain affordability, significantly improve student success, and close persistent gaps by race and ethnicity," said Jessie Ryan, executive vice president of the Campaign for College Opportunity.

The budget includes no new increases to the state's financial aid program, but does provide the funding necessary for an increase in the number of students eligible for the competitive Cal Grants (as determined by the 2015 budget), as well as funding for continued implementation of the Middle Class Scholarship.

"Reinvestment in higher education, holding our colleges and universities accountable for expanding access, and ensuring more students graduate is good news for California. What we need now is a bold, visionary statewide plan for higher education that can guide investment and align our colleges and universities around goals over time. Students and our state deserve a sustainable vision for success that goes beyond the limitations of the annual budget process," concluded Ryan.

For key highlights of the Governor's 2016-17 higher education budget proposal, click [here](#).  
To read the official budget documents produced by the Department of Finance, click [here](#).

###

***About Campaign for College Opportunity:***

*The Campaign for College Opportunity is a California non-profit bipartisan policy and research organization focused on a single mission: to ensure all Californians have an equal opportunity to attend and succeed in college in order to build a vibrant workforce, economy and democracy. For more information, visit [www.CollegeCampaign.org](http://www.CollegeCampaign.org) / [Facebook.com/CollegeCampaign](https://www.facebook.com/CollegeCampaign) or follow [@CollegeOpp](https://twitter.com/CollegeOpp).*