



STATEMENT OF MICHELE SIQUEIROS  
Executive Director, The Campaign for College Opportunity

Contact: Audrey Dow  
213-744-9434  
310-402-8858

January 10, 2013

**Governor proposes additional 1.5 billion dollars for public higher education  
and outlines historic plan for improved quality and affordability.**

We applaud Governor Brown on the new investments he proposes for California Community Colleges, California State University, and University of California totaling nearly 1.5 billion dollars. After years of devastating cuts to higher education, thanks to voter approval of Proposition 30 and the Governor's leadership, higher education is on the mend and that is good for both students and our state.

We are greatly encouraged by the Governor's focus on providing increased college access and prioritizing an agenda that decreases time to completion, increases community college transfer numbers and graduation rates, especially for students at our California State Universities and Community Colleges. In 2010, we commissioned a landmark study, *Divided We Fail*, which found that only three in ten community college students complete a degree, transfer, or earn a certificate after six years. This falls to only two in ten for Latino and black students. With the state facing a 2.3 million certificate and degree shortage by 2025, we are proud to see Governor Jerry Brown support higher education funding and policy priorities that hold colleges and universities accountable for increasing student graduation and completion rates. Governor Brown understands that an opportunity to go to college is not fully realized unless a student is able to achieve his or her college goals.

The budget proposal also includes significant policy reforms to preserve funding for our colleges and universities, stabilize tuition costs and preserve financial aid for students in the coming years. These are big steps in the right direction.

At his press conference the Governor recognized that education will give California the biggest return on investment. He is absolutely right. Our 2012 report, *California's Economic Payoff*, found that the state yields \$4.50 for every \$1 invested in higher education. This investment in our human capital promises to provide Californians with continued opportunity and hope for a better economic future.

Today, we stand ready to work with the Governor and our broad coalition to ensure the vision laid out in today's budget proposal is made reality for the sake of students and all Californians.

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**About The Campaign for College Opportunity:** The Campaign for College Opportunity is a broad-based, bipartisan coalition, including business, education and civil rights leaders, that is dedicated to ensuring the next generation of Californians has the opportunity to go to college and succeed. Our mission is focused on substantially increasing the number of students attending two- and four-year colleges in the state and who complete their college education. For more information, visit: [www.collegecampaign.org](http://www.collegecampaign.org).