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**STATEMENT ON GOVERNOR BROWN'S MAY REVISION OF THE 2015-16 BUDGET PROPOSAL
Colleges and Universities in CA receive \$2.9 billion boost**

Focus on improving transfer, time to degree, and remedial education is promising but budget does not go far enough.

Governor Jerry Brown's revised budget proposal is good for higher education. It provides multi-year financial stability to our public higher education systems and increases funding by \$2.9 billion over the 2014-15 budget while making student success a top priority.

The Governor is right to focus additional resources on supporting student success at our colleges and universities. Funding to support the student equity plans at community colleges, a focus on creating a simplified transfer pathway to the University of California (UC) from community colleges modeled after the California State University's (CSU) associate degree for transfer pathway, and acknowledgement that improving time to degree can open up much needed space at our colleges and universities is laudable.

The Governor's budget also makes a crucial investment in improving remedial education in California's Community Colleges. Over seventy percent of all community college students are assessed as needing remedial education but the system to deliver that education is so broken that two-thirds of those students will never complete a degree, certificate or transfer after six years. We applaud the Governor's investment of \$60 million to strategically support evidence-based interventions to improve remedial education and keep millions of students from falling out of our community colleges and get them on a path to success.

However, the budget falls short on meeting student demand for a spot in California's public universities. When the CSU turned away 30,000 eligible applicants in 2013-14, and since 2009 has turned away over 139,000 eligible applicants, the funding in the Governor's proposal for an additional 4,000 students is woefully inadequate. The complete absence of enrollment growth funding for the UC is disturbing. Last year alone, 11,183 eligible students were denied admission to UC campuses to which they applied and were placed in a referral pool for UC Merced where only 240 actually enrolled. The UC clearly needs the revenues to expand capacity across campuses so eligible students find seats at campuses to which they apply. This would also prevent the UC from responding to a large applicant pool by increasing admission standards, making it harder for students today to get into the UC than it has been for previous generations.

"We have a growing population of young adults that are better prepared to directly enter our four year universities than in the past. But, we are failing to plan for their enrollment in the CSU and UC. You cannot have a middle class life without a college education and we cannot strengthen California's future economy without significantly educating more of our residents. This budget fails to provide the revenues necessary to expand college access sufficiently," said Michele Siqueiros, President of the Campaign for College Opportunity.

As the Governor's budget now moves to the legislature, Senate Bill 15 (Block, de León, Liu), which would increase enrollment funding to serve an additional 5,000 more California students at the UC and 10,500 more at the CSU, becomes essential.

"We hope the Legislature will address the deficiencies in this budget for the sake of our students, our economy, and our collective future. Holding UC enrollment flat and making only small investments in CSU enrollment growth is short-sighted. Greater investments in our human capital are long overdue," concluded Siqueiros.

To read the official budget documents produced by the Department of Finance, click here:

http://dof.ca.gov/documents/2015-16_May_Revision.pdf

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About Campaign for College Opportunity:

The Campaign for College Opportunity is a California non-profit research and advocacy 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 / [Facebook.com/CollegeCampaign](https://www.facebook.com/CollegeCampaign) or follow [@CollegeOpp](https://twitter.com/CollegeOpp).