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STATEMENT ON FINAL 2015-16 CALIFORNIA BUDGET FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
Colleges and Universities in CA receive \$1.1 billion boost
Focus on expanding enrollment, financial aid and improving transfer, time to degree,
and remedial education.

The Governor and Legislature are to be commended for passing a strong higher education budget that puts students first. This budget, which boasts \$1.1 billion over last year, balances expanding access to our four year public universities while investing in and calling for improvements in student success.

We welcome the agreement that was reached between the Governor and Legislature on enrollment growth funding for both the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU). The additional \$25 million to the UC to increase enrollment by 5,000 undergraduate students by the 2016-17 academic year will ensure that more qualified California students will be able to attend. Furthermore, the additional \$97 million to the CSU to enroll an additional 10,400 undergraduates by fall 2016 will open up the doors to thousands of qualified students, many of whom the system was forced to turn away since the onset of the Great Recession.

“The demand for a college education has never been higher than in today’s economy. Our state leaders have acted to invest in our human capital by ensuring California students have a spot in our public colleges and universities – this investment will only strengthen the economic future of California,” said Michele Siqueiros, President of the Campaign for College Opportunity.

And, there is more welcome news for community college students; the final budget makes a crucial investment of \$60 million to scale-up efforts to improve remedial education so that students receive the support and innovation they need to become college ready and are put on a path to success.

The budget also increases the Cal Grant B Access Award, increases the number of competitive Cal Grants, ensures that California students attending independent colleges and universities in our state continue receiving the same level of financial aid as in previous years, and closes a serious loop hole in the Middle Class Scholarship to help ensure that only students who need financial aid, actually receive it.

The legislature was right to maintain key elements of the Governor’s May Revision which included additional resources for student supports at community colleges and calling on the UC to create a simplified transfer pathway modeled after the CSU associate degree for transfer pathway.

“This is a smart budget that prioritizes college enrollment, community college transfer to our four year universities, makes critical improvements to remedial education, and preserves and expands financial aid.

In this budget, the Governor and legislature are providing the needed funding to allow our community colleges and universities to open up the doors to more California students and once they are on campus, to graduate them,” said Siqueiros. “We look forward to working with UC, CSU and California Community Colleges to support the full implementation of this budget as our state leaders have envisioned because it’s precisely what students and our state need,” concluded Siqueiros.

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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).