



STATEMENT OF MICHELE SIQUEIROS
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State's largest group of college students ineligible for new scholarship program

The Governor and the Legislature's leadership in providing significant funding for higher education in the 2013-14 budget is commendable, but more is necessary. California's economy demands 2.3 million more educated workers than we are on track to produce and resources to significantly increase the number of spots in college for our students are needed now. Not a single talented Californian should decide against going to college because they are too poor to pay for it. California can't afford that!

And, while the Middle Class Scholarship Program will indeed make it more comfortable for some families to send their students to college, we are concerned that California's leaders are not taking care of students with the most financial need. The fact that community college students are ineligible for the scholarship program means our largest group of college students in the state will continue to have unmet financial need.

That is why we support Senator Kevin De Leon's College Access Tax Credit Bill (SB 284 and SB 285), which would direct funds to increase Cal Grant B Awards, thereby expanding the limited financial aid dollars for low-income and non-traditional community college students. The Legislature and Governor still have a chance this year to demonstrate an equal commitment to low income students as they have for middle class students. We urge the Governor and the Legislature to support SB 284 and SB 285.

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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.