



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

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

July 18, 2013

STATEMENT ON APPOINTMENT OF JANET NAPOLITANO AS THE 20TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

The Campaign for College Opportunity is pleased to express congratulations to Ms. Janet Napolitano on her appointment as the 20th President of the University of California (UC).

Ms. Napolitano inherits the UC at a time of renewed hope. Thanks to California voters who passed Proposition 30, some funding has been restored to the system. Ms. Napolitano will need to be a prudent steward of these new resources and make decisions that expand access to the ten UC campuses for California students, close equity gaps in access and completion rates for underrepresented students, and produce graduates in critical fields needed by our state's economy.

For nearly a decade, the Campaign has been proud to champion efforts calling for greater resources for our public higher education systems in order to increase college opportunity and success for students seeking an education at our public colleges and universities. In 2010, the Campaign worked with several business, community and civil rights allies to usher in historic transfer reform legislation for community colleges students. Assembly Bill 2302 (Fong) ensured that the promise of California's Master Plan for Higher Education would be upheld by encouraging the UC to develop a more robust statewide transfer pathway for qualified community college students. We hope that Ms. Napolitano will advance UC efforts to receive community college students in the associate degree for transfer pathway and set clear benchmarks for implementation immediately.

Napolitano joins newly appointed leaders Timothy White, Chancellor of the California State University and Brice Harris, Chancellor of the California Community Colleges. Together, they have a historic opportunity to begin their tenures by uniting our colleges and universities on a common agenda focused on increasing access, significantly improving college completion rates, and improving efficiency and affordability. Together, they can exercise unprecedented leadership, the likes of which have not been seen since the creation of the 1960's Master Plan for Higher Education, to resurrect the California promise of college opportunity and success for a growing diverse population in order to meet the increasing demand for skilled workers in our state.

We look forward to meeting and working with Ms. Napolitano and are eager to share key priorities we believe are critical to the success of the UC and the success of our great state. We believe the new UC President must:

1. Prioritize the greatest possible enrollment of eligible California students in the UC, significantly increasing admission rates for California students. While we understand the importance of out of state tuition dollars for the UC, educating our own population must remain the #1 priority for the system.
2. Champion a fully realized associate degree for transfer pathway from community colleges to the UC that goes beyond campus by campus agreements and significantly increases the number of California community college students that reach the UC and earn a Baccalaureate degree.
3. Relieve the uncertainty facing students and families by working towards a fee policy that ensures any further tuition increases are moderate and predictable, that all students maximize federal and state financial aid and are aware of federally available subsidized loans and income based repayment programs.
4. Provide courageous and visionary leadership to build upon the new performance reporting requirements outlined in this year's state budget by requiring action plans from each UC campus to improve graduation rates, the number of students who transferring from community colleges, the number of degrees completed and reduce the time to completion.

We welcome Ms. Napolitano and commit to working with her to ensure college access, quality, and success for students. Together with our partners, we will work to ensure our UC system produces the educated workforce California needs to be economically competitive.

###

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.