



# Office of Government Relations

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

## January 2017 Newsletter

### Upcoming Events:

#### 2017-18 Legislative Session Began

December 5

#### Governor's Budget Proposal

January 10

Sacramento, CA

#### Board of Governor's Meeting

January 17-18

Sacramento, CA

#### ACBO Budget Workshop

January 18

Sacramento, CA

#### Consultation Council

January 19

Sacramento, CA

#### Annual Legislative Conference

January 29-30

Sacramento, CA

### Legislators Begin with Vow to Protect Students

In the first day of the new legislative session, Legislators vowed to protect California students. The California Legislature returned to Sacramento, welcoming many new members. Senate and Assembly leaders wasted no time introducing bills to address concerns with the incoming presidential Administration. For example, Senate Bill 54, de Leon (D-Los Angeles), would create "safe zones" at public schools, hospitals and courthouses where immigrant enforcement would be banned, and require state agencies to update their confidentiality policies so that information on individuals' immigration status is not shared for enforcement purposes.

The composition of the legislature has shifted over the last five years. One notable change is the number of ethnically diverse lawmakers, which has increased from 47 to 53, with gains made among Asian/Pacific Islander, Latino and multiracial lawmakers. Democrats restored their two-thirds supermajorities in both houses of the Legislature and have dominated both chambers of the California legislature since 1959 with the exceptions being: 1969 to 1971 and 1994 to 1996. Each member represents about 424,000 California residents.

Under new term-limit laws that were enacted in 2012, legislators can serve 12 years in either the Assembly or Senate. After the last election, 100 percent of the Assembly, and a majority of the Senate, are serving under more stable term-limits. The 2017-18 Legislative Session will bring new dynamics, including the fact that in the Assembly, all legislators are serving in a post-recession cuts era. Federally, we can expect a clash of policy agendas. Just recently, Democratic Party leadership announced the hiring of Eric Holder, former United States Attorney General, to address concerns with Federal policy. California leadership continues to emphasize their strong focus on protection and opportunities for all.

### New Year, New Session, New Legislative Leadership

As we ring in the New Year, the California Legislature welcomes a host of changes from committee leadership, to new policy and fiscal priorities. Committee leaders have significant influence over which bills get hearings, and their fate in those hearings. Below are the leaders of the key committees that affect higher education, specifically community colleges. Assembly

#### Useful Resources:

League Bill Tracking:  
[www.ccleague.org/bills](http://www.ccleague.org/bills)

Follow news related to Budget and Policy at:  
<http://www.ccleague.org/policy>

Speaker Anthony Rendon announced committee chairs for the new session, with no changes to committees that impact higher education.

**Appropriations:** Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher, D-Los Angeles  
**Budget:** Assemblyman Phil Ting, D-San Francisco  
**Budget Subcommittee #2 – Education:** Assemblyman Kevin McCarty, D – Sacramento  
**Higher Education:** Assemblyman Jose Medina, D-Riverside

California Senate President Pro Tempore Kevin de León also announced his leadership team and committee chairmanships in late December. Many committees saw a shakeup with education welcoming new chairs to its policy and budget committees.

**Appropriations:** Senator Ricardo Lara, D-Bell Gardens  
**Budget and Fiscal Review:** Senator Holly Mitchell, D-Los Angeles  
**Budget Subcommittee #1 – Education:** Senator Anthony Portantino, D-La Cañada  
**Education:** Senator Ben Allen, D-Santa Monica

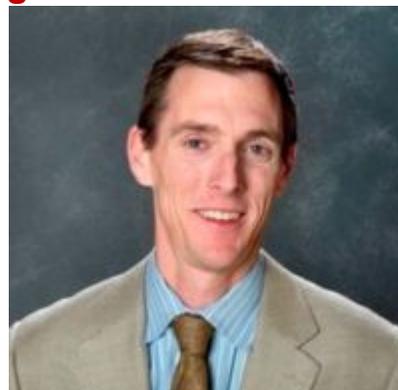
## **Dynamic Political Discussion Opens Legislative Conference**

Pulitzer Prize winner Jack Ohman and Jim Miller of the Sacramento Bee will open the 2017 Legislative Conference on Sunday, January 29, 2017. Jack Ohman is the winner of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Cartooning, and Jim Miller is the Editor for Capitol Alert, a blog focusing on California politics and public policy. Legislative Conference attendees will enjoy expert analysis and editorial perspective on current trends impacting the political process at both the state and federal level. They will help inform our conference attendees on topics of discussion in the state capitol and the current national discourse.

### **Sunday Opening Session**



**Jack Ohman**  
**Editorial Cartoonist**  
**Pulitzer Prize Winner**



**Jim Miller**  
**Capitol Alert Editor**  
**Sacramento Bee**

To register for the League's Legislative Conference, click [here](#).

## **Preview of 2017-18 Policy Talking Points**

### **EDUCATIONAL QUALITY**

#### **• Our Ask: Invest in Higher Per-Student Funding and General Operations**

Quality academic programs and services require a base augmentation. General operating funds support districts confronting rapidly growing energy, pension, and teaching costs, and ensure the health and safety of our students. More importantly, general operating resources fund innovation on campuses.

These funds are necessary for the fiscal stability of our colleges.

## SUCCESS

- **Our Ask: Protect Student Success**

Student success funds have transformed our system – helping colleges redesign the way students progress toward their educational goals, and by closing achievement gaps. Protecting the investments in student success programs and services, such as education planning, tutoring labs, and hiring counselors, supports effective pathway design resulting in increased persistence and degree completion.

## EQUITY

- **Our Ask: Equitably Fund Cal Grants for Community College Students. Make policy changes to ensure Cal Grants serve non-traditional age students.**

While the Board of Governors Fee Waiver is the most robust tuition-relief program in the nation, aid for community college students to cover non-tuition college costs - such as textbooks, transportation, childcare, food, and housing – is insufficient. This affects low-income students more severely. Additionally, more than 30% of community college students are over the age of 28, highlighting the need to make Cal Grants available for older students. Community college students receive only seven percent of the Cal Grant resources. The lack of adequate financial aid leads students to take fewer classes, extends their time to graduation, and makes college unaffordable and a degree unattainable. Increasing grant aid by bolstering the number of competitive Cal Grants or the access award to cover non-tuition costs can solve the affordability challenge.

## Must Reads

***Capacity Unleashed: The Faces of Community College Math Pathways***

October 2016, California Acceleration Project (CAP)

Chronically low completion rates among students in “basic skills” or remedial courses have led the state of California to allocate \$90 million in grants to community colleges to transform remediation in English and math. A new publication—*Capacity Unleashed: The Faces of Community College Math Pathways*—illustrates the potential impact of this work on students’ lives.

*Capacity Unleashed* tells the stories of 13 students who participated in alternative math remediation at City College of San Francisco, Berkeley City College, College of the Canyons, and Cuyamaca College. These colleges are among the 35 institutions in the state offering accelerated statistics pathways with a faculty-led initiative called the California Acceleration Project. The stories put a human face on third-party evaluation results showing that across the first eight colleges offering redesigned statistics pathways with the California Acceleration Project, student’s odds of completing a transferable math course were 4.5 times higher than in traditional remediation, and the achievement gap between African-American and Asian students – the largest gap in traditional remediation – was eliminated.

Read the full report [here](#).

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