



Academic Senate
for California Community Colleges

LEADERSHIP. EMPOWERMENT. VOICE.

President

David Morse
Long Beach City College

Vice President

Julie Bruno
Sierra College

Secretary

John Stanskas
San Bernardino Valley College

Treasurer

Wheeler North
San Diego Miramar College

Area A Representative

Grant Goold
American River College

Area B Representative

Dolores Davison
Foothill College

Area C Representative

John Freitas
Los Angeles City College

Area D Representative

Craig Rutan
Santiago Canyon College

North Representative

Cleavon Smith
Berkeley City College

North Representative

Ginni May
Sacramento City College

South Representative

Adrienne Foster
West Los Angeles College

South Representative

Vacant

Representative at Large

Cheryl Aschenbach
Lassen College

Representative at Large

Randy Beach
Southwestern College

Julie Adams, Ph. D.

Executive Director

April 28, 2016

Honorable Lorena Gonzalez, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: Support AB 1892 (Medina, as of 3/28/2016) Student Financial Aid:
Cal Grant C Awards**

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez:

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges is writing to express support for AB 1892 (Medina), which would reform the Cal Grant C awards for student financial aid in ways that would offer substantial benefits to community college students.

Any costs associated with this legislation would be absorbable and would be more than worthwhile in terms of the bill's potential benefits to students and the California economy as a whole.

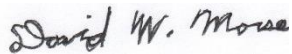
President Obama has recognized both the importance of community colleges in higher education and the need to reduce financial barriers to higher education by proposing free tuition for students who attend community college. California has been providing free or low cost tuition for community college students for over 40 years, currently allowing nearly 60% of community college students to receive free tuition, yet the total cost of all expenses and lack of sufficient financial aid often make community college attendance in California more expensive than attending the University of California or the California State University.

The Honorable Lorenza Gonzalez, Chair
April 28, 2016
Page 2

AB 1892 would increase Cal Grant C Access Awards to community colleges students to \$3,000, would create an entitlement program for career technical education students similar to the Cal Grant A or B programs, and would permit these awards to be used for all living expenses. These changes would provide substantial benefit and increased access for community college students and would enable more students, especially those in career technical education programs, to achieve their educational goals, thus providing benefits to the workforce and the economy of California.

For these reasons, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges supports Assembly Bill 1892 (Medina, as of 03/28/16). Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



David Morse
President, Academic Senate for California Community Colleges

pc: Assemblymember Jose Medina
Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee