



Board of Trustees

Los Angeles Community College District

ACTION

Com. No. **BT4**

Division: **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Date: October 4, 2017

Subject: **RESOLUTION – IN SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL 19 (SANTIAGO) FEE WAIVER FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS**

The following resolution is presented by Board Members Fong and Svonkin:

Whereas, Assembly Bill 19 (Santiago) passed the California Legislature with bipartisan support (Assembly 56-18; and, the Senate 31-7) and would allow community colleges to grant a tuition-free education to first time, full time community college students throughout California; and

Whereas, According to the bill author, California faces an estimated shortage of one million college-educated workers needed to sustain the state's workforce; and

Whereas, AB 19 is motivated by former President Obama's College Promise Program – a proposed two-year tuition-free community college initiative; and

Whereas, Many community college districts throughout California and the United States have enacted and implemented Promise Programs; and

Whereas, These programs have been demonstrated to expand access to financial aid, promote equity, increase enrollment, improve academic performances and boost college completion rates; and

Whereas, California already covers tuition for a significant portion of the study body at its community colleges. In 2015-16, 43 percent of the 2.3 million community college students

Chancellor and Secretary of the Board of Trustees

By *Bucaloy m* Date 10/4/17

Buelna <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moreno <u>Absent</u>
Fong <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Svonkin <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hoffman <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Veres <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kamlager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Martinez <u>Aye</u> Student Trustee Advisory Vote

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received the Board of Governors fee waivers amounting to \$800 million in taxpayer-covered fee costs; and

Whereas, If Assembly Bill 19 is enacted into law, an estimated 19,000 students who otherwise wouldn't have qualified for that waiver would have the \$46-per-unit fees covered and cost to the State would be roughly \$33 million; and

Whereas, To be eligible, students would have to be California residents enrolled as first-time, full-time students in a community college, apply for Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA) or a California Dream Act application, regardless of their income; and

Whereas, Participants in the program are required, as a condition of the program, to:

- Partner with one or more local educational agencies (LEAs) to establish an Early Commitment to College Program that will provide secondary and postsecondary students and their families assistance that, in part, includes learning about college opportunities, completing college preparatory courses, and applying for college and financial aid;
- Partner with one or more LEAs to support and improve high school student preparation for college and reduce postsecondary remediation through practices that may include, in part, small learning communities and concurrent enrollment;
- Utilize evidence-based assessment and placement practices at the California Community Colleges that include multiple measures of student performance;
- Participate in the California Community College Guided Pathways Grant Program; and,
- Maximize student access to need-based financial aid by leveraging the newly renamed CA Promise (formerly known as the Board of Governors) fee waiver; and

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Whereas, AB 19 would enable approximately tens of thousands of Los Angeles County students access to a free Los Angeles Community College District education; and

Whereas, AB 19 has broad-base support including elected officials, community leaders, the business sector and educational institutions; and

Whereas, A partial listing of support includes endorsements from State Senate Pro Tem Kevin DeLeon, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, State Treasurer John Chiang, LA Mayor Eric Garcetti, California Association of Latino Community College Trustees and Administrators (CALCCTA), California Federation of Teachers, California Teachers Association, Faculty Association of the California, Community Colleges, Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, Los Angeles Economic Development Council, Los Angeles College Faculty Guild, Los Angeles Unified School District, 14 Community College Districts and seven Community Colleges, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, California Nurses Association, Central City Association of Los Angeles, California Alternative Payment Program Association, Children's Defense Fund and Unite LA; and therefore be it

Resolved, That AB 19 will allow California Community Colleges to waive fees for first time, full time community college students for one year – boosting enrollment and graduation rates; expanding access to financial aid while decreasing student debt; and supporting California's business climate by addressing the shortage of college-educated workers needed to sustain the state's workforce; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees urges Governor Jerry Brown to sign Assembly Bill 19 (Santiago), which would allow community colleges to grant a tuition-free education to first time, full time community college students throughout California.