



California Community Colleges

June 10, 2020

Dear Superintendent,

While the COVID-19 crisis has created uncertainty for many graduating seniors, the community college pathway is more relevant than ever and will play a critical role in our state's economic recovery. As the largest provider of career education training in the nation, California's community colleges are the backbone of our state's workforce – both today and tomorrow.

Below you will find a letter, in English and Spanish. We are asking your office and/or the high school counselors in your district to help us share valuable information with the parents/students in your 2020 graduating classes by distributing the below letter. This important communication highlights how our low cost, wide-ranging degree pathways, career training programs, guaranteed transfer pathways to four-year universities and year-round financial aid options may make attending a community college in the fall the perfect fit in this challenging moment - even if it wasn't being considered before.

The California Community Colleges are preparing to hold most courses online in the fall, with some classes for essential workforce training being held in-person on our campuses. As you may know, our colleges offer excellent value and opportunity:

- Annually, our colleges educate tens of thousands of the state's firefighters, law enforcement personnel, nurses and emergency medical technicians.

- In addition to health and emergency services, our career education programs support Critical Infrastructure Sectors including energy, manufacturing, food and agriculture, transportation and logistics.
- More than 50,000 students each year receive the Associate Degree for Transfer that guarantees them a saved spot at CSU campus and many participating private, not-for-profit four-year colleges and universities as well as Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).
- On average, students with a degree or certificate from a California community college nearly double their earnings within three years.
- Roughly 50% of our 2.1 million students receive some form of financial aid.

We encourage all high school counselors to visit [StayEnrolled.com](https://www.stayenrolled.com) today for more information on available programs and resources at California's 115 community colleges, as well as links to applications.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of sharing the below letter. Together, we can provide resources to your graduates and help them continue their higher education journey – even in the most trying of times. Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to our Vice Chancellor for Communications and Marketing Paul Feist at PFeist@cccco.edu or our Director of Communications and Marketing Paige Marlatt Dorr at PDorr@cccco.edu. Be well.

Sincerely,
Chancellor Eloy Oakley Ortiz

[Download Letter to High School Students - English](#)

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1102 Q Street,
Sacramento, CA 95811

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