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# California State Senate

SENATOR  
ANDY VIDAK

FOURTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES  
VICE CHAIR  
BANKING AND  
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS  
EDUCATION  
GOVERNMENTAL  
ORGANIZATION  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
AND WATER

June 1, 2016

The Honorable Kevin de León  
Senate Pro Tem  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Mark Leno, Chair  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review  
State Capitol, Room 5100  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: California State University Budget Request.**

Dear Senate Pro Tem Kevin de León and Senator Leno:

As elected leaders in California, we believe in the importance of making budget decisions that support and drive long-term economic growth. Public higher education is integral to a vibrant economy and should be a top budget priority for the state. As such, we are requesting that \$101 million be added to what has been proposed by the Governor for the California State University's 2016-17 budget allocation. This additional funding will allow 12,600 more students to pursue a degree at CSU as well as provide \$50 million for the system to continue investing in efforts to increase student degree completion.

This investment is important for the state's future – we regularly cite the Public Policy Institute of California report that says that by 2030 California is going to be short 1.2 million baccalaureate degreed workers. Considering that each year half of all baccalaureate degrees in the state are earned at a CSU, and that two-thirds of community college transfer students choose to attend a CSU, we believe that this additional investment is important to the state and its economy.

This investment is timely as the state still has the opportunity to make this critical investment in the CSU. Funding for many state programs dipped during the recession, but most have fully recovered or even exceed pre-recession funding levels. Unfortunately, the CSU's budget allocation remains nearly five percent or \$100 million below 2007-08 while the system is educating an additional 40,000 students. Recognizing this, we ask that \$101 million in on-going funding be added to what the Governor has already proposed for the CSU in his 2016-17 budget.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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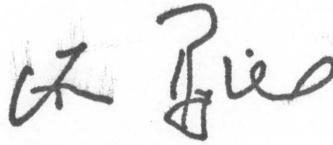
ANDY VIDAK  
Senator, 14<sup>th</sup> District

Handwritten signature of Jean Fuller in black ink.

JEAN FULLER  
Senate Republican Leader, 16<sup>th</sup> District



TED GAINES  
Senator, 1<sup>st</sup> District



TOM BERRYHILL  
Senator, 8<sup>th</sup> District



ANTHONY CANNELLA  
Senator, 12<sup>th</sup> District



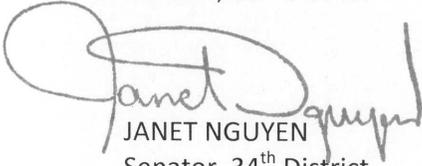
MIKE MORRELL  
Senator, 28<sup>th</sup> District



JEFF STONE  
Senator, 28<sup>th</sup> District



BOB HUFF  
Senator, 29<sup>th</sup> District



JANET NGUYEN  
Senator, 34<sup>th</sup> District

cc The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor, State of California  
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker, California State Assembly  
The Honorable Jean Fuller, Minority Leader, California State Senate  
The Honorable Chad Mayes, Leader, Assembly Republican Caucus  
Members, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee