



The Campaign for
**College
Opportunity**



C.O.P.E.
Congregations Organized for
Prophetic Engagement



February 13, 2020

Dr. Anne L. Viricel, President
Dr. Stephanie Houston, Vice President
Gloria Macias Harrison, Clerk
John Longville, Trustee
Joseph Williams, Trustee
Frank Reyes, Trustee
Dr. Donald L. Singer, Trustee
Elijah Gerard, CHC Student Trustee
Maritza Mariscal-Medina, SBVC Student Trustee

RE: Community Appointment to 2020 Chancellor Search Committee

President Viricel, Vice President Houston and the San Bernardino Community College District Trustees—

We represent the **Inland Empire Higher Education Engagement Hub**, a group of education advocates who work directly with or on behalf of students and institutions of higher education in the Inland Empire region. Our collective purpose is to ensure campuses support Californians on their paths to and through college. Today, we write to share our perspective and offer our ongoing partnership as your Board embarks upon the most important task as a public servant: selecting the next Chancellor of the San Bernardino Community College District (SBCCD). The students and community of San Bernardino need a transformational leader that will address persistent racial equity gaps, faculty and staff diversity, student engagement and sustainable community partnerships.

The District and the incoming Chancellor play a vital role in improving investments and policies for Black and Latinx students. The District also plays a vital role in preparing more residents for the rapid economic growth in the region. We need equitable, effective, collaborative leadership now more than ever.

Despite students' progress and innovative programs such as the Free College Promise, the District still has much work to be done to scale co-requisite and transfer-level course offerings under the new AB 705 legislation, increase the number of Associate Degrees for Transfer awarded to graduates, increase faculty and staff diversity, and ensure that career pipelines are responsive to economic and community demands.

Given our collective engagement with Black and Latinx students and Inland Empire community leaders, we respectfully request your consideration to include a representative of our Inland Empire Higher Education Engagement Hub to serve on the search committee alongside district leadership, faculty, staff and students.

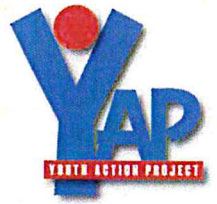
Having community representatives on the search committee would send a powerful message to the District and new Chancellor about the importance of regional collaboration for students. Our networks and expertise will ensure that we can support the goal of selecting a visionary, effective, equity driven leader for this influential district.



The Campaign for
**College
Opportunity**



C.O.P.E.
Congregations Organized for
Prophetic Engagement



We look forward to hearing about the creation of the committee, the selection process and the District's desired characteristics for the next Chancellor. Please reach out to Sara Mooney, Regional Affairs Director at the Campaign for College Opportunity at SaraM@collegecampaign.org to connect with our coalition.

In partnership,

Dina Walker
President & CEO
BLU Educational Foundation

Audrey Dow
Senior Vice President
Campaign for College Opportunity

Reverend Sam Casey
Founder & Executive Director
**Congregations Organized for
Prophetic Engagement (COPE)**

Jason Cordova
Vice-President
Inland Empire Economic Partnership

Tremaine Mitchell
Co-Founder & Executive Director
Youth Action Project

Good evening, my name is Sara Mooney and I am the regional affairs director at the Campaign for College Opportunity. I'm here today to elevate a few priorities for the new Chancellor, and hope that our organization and a number of the other Inland Empire community organizations in our network can weigh in on the process and candidates in the coming months.

The Campaign leads a broad-based bipartisan coalition including education, business, and civil rights leaders that is dedicated to ensuring that all Inland Empire students have an equal opportunity to attend and succeed in college in order to build a vibrant workforce, economy, and democracy. A number of these suggestions come from these partner organizations. They focus on: cultivating and leading community partnerships; leadership that is representative of the student body, while championing increased faculty and staff diversity; equity in budgets, programs, values, data, and goal setting; and prioritizing the implementation of guided pathways work with a particular focus on the Associate Degree for Transfer and AB 705.

We need a Chancellor who will have a deliberate focus on equitable access and community partnerships that engage and benefit all communities, while reaching across district boundaries. The Inland Empire as a region is at a critical moment in its economic development, and it is imperative that the new Chancellor works collaboratively with K-12, non-profits, other institutions of higher education and local legislators to bring in the best possible resources for students. This means proactive engagement, transparency in data, and listening to the voices of students.

It is crucial that you select a Chancellor who is representative of the students that the district serves. In the Campaign's 2018 Left Out report, we found that senior leadership at Crafton Hills was 75% white, and tenured faculty were 63% white. At SB Valley college, senior leadership was 50% white and tenured faculty was 48% white. These are both majority Latino schools.

representation matters--students of color are more likely to feel like they belong when they look like and can relate to staff and leaders on their campuses. In naming the next Chancellor, you have a unique opportunity to select a leader whose experience reflects the commitment to centering students and equity in every decision.

Lastly, SBCCD is trailing behind Riverside CCD when it comes to offering more transfer level math courses under the new AB 705 legislation: only 56% of the districts intro math courses are transfer level, compared to RCCD's 84%. And 18% of intro level English courses are still at the remedial level, compared with only 12% at RCCD. Moreover, SBCCD is trailing behind the aggregate of the IE region overall with course offerings. We need a Chancellor who will support campuses in implementing effective AB 705 practices, which have real positive outcomes for students' degree completion.

These courses should also be a part of a larger strategy to align more degree offerings with ADTs, which guarantees students acceptance onto CSU campuses--these pathways are the best way for students to complete their AA degree.

How can the new Chancellor identify additional funding for staff time to design these offerings? How

can the Chancellor work with organizations like Growing Inland Achievement to support the design of these pathways, student support services and new curriculums?

As you determine a search firm, a process, and discuss the attributes necessary for the next Chancellor for the District, we urge you to consider how their leadership will foster an inclusive campus community that centers students and equity in every decision. Naming a Chancellor that reflects the students at the San Bernardino CC District and understands their needs would be an impactful step in doing just that. The success of historically underserved students are your responsibility, and their achievement should be a top priority—we will continue to evaluate your district on these

Finally, as a Board, we look to your partnership and engagement in asking tough questions about student outcomes data, budget decisions, and the strategic direction of the district. It is not enough to come here once a month and tout successes; let's challenge ourselves and our new leaders to do better by students than what we did last week or last year. This means discomfort, change and occasional disagreement, but we are looking to you as elected leaders to step into this role as a critical friend and ally.