



The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
DATE March 3-4, 2014

SUBJECT: Joint Appearance of the Three Leaders of California's Public Higher Education Systems		Item Number: 3.1	
		Attachment: No	
CATEGORY:	Communications	TYPE OF BOARD CONSIDERATION:	
Recommended By:	 Paul Feist, Vice Chancellor	Consent/Routine	
		First Reading	
Approved for Consideration:	 Brice W. Harris, Chancellor	Action	
		Information	X

ISSUE: Joint appearance by Chancellor Harris, University of California President Janet Napolitano and California State University Chancellor Timothy P. White before the Board of Governors to update members on areas of mutual interest and collaboration among the three systems of public higher education.

BACKGROUND: All three of California's leaders of public higher education segments are relatively new to their positions, and they have committed to staying in regular contact with each other and working closely together on areas of mutual concern, such as strengthening transfer pathways for students. President Napolitano and Chancellors White and Harris have appeared together in public on three occasions in the past few months. The first time was at a national conference of higher education government relations professionals in San Francisco, the second at the University of California Regents meeting in January and most recently at a legislative hearing in Sacramento. The three leaders have committed to making joint appearances before the governing bodies of all three segments of public higher education.

RECOMMENDATION: This item is presented for information and discussion.

ANALYSIS: The commitment by the three segment leaders to work cooperatively on areas of common interest present an opportunity to strengthen public higher education in California as it recovers from years of budget cuts, fee increases and an overall rationing of education. Heightened interest in on-line education as well as general discussions about the Master Plan will benefit from the strong relationship the three leaders have forged in a short period of time. The leaders have identified three key areas in which to begin collaboration: strengthening transfer from community colleges to California State University and University of California, leveraging procurement power across all three segments and conducting outreach in California middle schools intended to persuade all young students that a college education is an attainable goal, regardless of background and economic status. At the University of California Regents meeting in January, the leaders discussed these goals, and the regents, including Gov. Jerry Brown, encouraged the three to follow through on these priorities and find other areas where collaboration can help more students succeed.

Next Steps

President Napolitano and Chancellors Harris and White will make a joint appearance later in March at the California State University trustees meeting in Long Beach. Additionally, all three leaders will participate in the Joint Higher Education Advocacy Day in Sacramento in April.