September 14, 2012

TO:     Chief Executive Officers
        Chief Student Services Officers
        Chief Instructional Officers

FROM:  Jack Scott, Chancellor

SUBJECT: Institutional Responsibility to Provide Reasonable Accommodations
          and Services for Students with Disabilities

I am writing to share with you that representatives from several disability rights advocacy
groups met with me and members of my staff last month to express concern that some
colleges may not be in compliance with state and federal mandates to provide equal
access for students with disabilities. My staff and I described the steps that the colleges
have taken to backfill the significant and sustained cuts to their Disabled Student
Programs and Services (DSPS). During that meeting, I also agreed to send a reminder
to the colleges that the requirement to provide the reasonable accommodations and
services, as specified in the federal and state statutes listed below, is an institutional
obligation, regardless of adequate state funding for DSPS.

Federal disability non-discrimination laws, specifically Section 504 of the Rehabilitation
Act of 1973 (29 USC, Sec. 794 et. seq.) and state law (Gov. Code Sec. 11135 et. seq.)
require colleges to provide disability-related auxiliary aids and services, and other
reasonable accommodations to meet the needs of students with disabilities. Federal
regulations implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) require that all
resources of a public institution are to be considered available to meet the needs of
eligible students with disabilities (28 CFR, Sec. 36.151). In keeping with this regulation,
the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights and other enforcement entities
have routinely held colleges accountable for this requirement.

Colleges are encouraged to consult with their ADA Coordinator, DSPS Director and their
college/district legal counsel regarding these obligations to ensure that students with
disabilities have the accommodations and services they need to be successful.

If you have questions, please contact Linda Michalowski, Vice Chancellor, Student
Services and Special Programs at (916) 327-5361 or at lmichalo@cccco.edu.