



MEDIA STATEMENT

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Chancellor Brice W. Harris' Statement on Recommendations From Bipartisan Group of Lawmakers to Streamline Federal Higher Education Regulations

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California Community Colleges Chancellor Brice W. Harris today urged Congress and the U.S. Department of Education to move quickly on new recommendations commissioned by a bipartisan group of lawmakers to streamline and reduce federal regulations for colleges and universities.

“Colleges and universities in the U.S. struggle every day to keep up with and adhere to over-burdensome and sometimes redundant and outdated regulations,” said Harris, who served on Task Force on Government Regulation of Higher Education “There is a simpler way to protect students and taxpayers and make American higher education more efficient and responsive.”

Access the report, which was supported by the American Council on Education, at:

http://www.help.senate.gov/imo/media/Regulations_Task_Force_Report_2015_FINAL.pdf

In November 2013, a bipartisan group of members of the Senate Education Committee formed the task force of 16 university presidents and higher education experts to conduct a comprehensive, nonpartisan review of the Department of Education’s regulations and the reporting requirements on colleges and universities.

The task force’s objective was to provide specific recommendations on reducing, eliminating or streamlining duplicative, costly or confusing regulations and reporting requirements to Congress and the administration in anticipation of the ninth reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

“The stack of federal regulations on colleges and universities today, which stretches as tall as I am, is simply the piling up of well-intentioned laws and regulations, done without anyone first weeding the garden,” **said Senate education committee Chairman Alexander**. “This report will guide our efforts to weed the garden and allow colleges to spend more of their time and money educating students, instead of filling out mountains of paperwork.”

“When I helped convene this task force, I had one goal in mind: to support our institutions of higher education – help them be them as they work to educate our next generation,” **Senator Mikulski said**. “I have heard many concerns from these institutions regarding federal requirements that, while well-intentioned, often end up being duplicative and burdensome.”

The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation composed of 72 districts and 112 colleges serving 2.1 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, basic skills education and prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions. The Chancellor’s Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. For more information about the community colleges, please visit <http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu>, <https://www.facebook.com/CACommColleges>, or <https://twitter.com/CalCommColleges>.

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