June 27, 2013

Honorable Kevin de León, Chair  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
State Capitol, Room 2206  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 1287 (Quirk-Silva) Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant Program  
Position: Support

Dear Senator de León,

The California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office is pleased to support Assembly Bill 1287 by Assemblymember Quirk-Silva. The bill would clarify that a student who has been disqualified from the Cal Grant program because of changes in family income may reapply for a Cal Grant in a subsequent year under the same status, either entitlement or competitive, that was granted at the time initial eligibility was established.

Prior to 2011, Cal Grant recipients were only required to meet income and asset eligibility criteria as first-time applicants and were not required to meet these criteria for renewal purposes. However, statutory changes to the Cal Grant program in 2011 and 2012 limit students deemed ineligible because of changes in family income to reapplying for the oversubscribed Competitive program only, even if they had previously been a recipient under the Entitlement program. This change essentially means permanent exclusion from the Cal Grant program for thousands of community college students.

The requirement for Cal Grant recipients to complete an annual application negatively impacts the 80,000 community college students who receive Cal Grant awards. Our students face tremendous financial challenges, which jeopardize their chances for success in college and in life. AB 1287 would restore the opportunity for eligible students to receive a Cal Grant, in either the Entitlement or Competitive program, to help them fund their college education.

The Chancellor’s Office thanks you for your consideration of this measure and urges your support. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact me at (916) 445-4434.

Sincerely,

Vincent W. Stewart  
Vice Chancellor, Governmental Relations  
California Community College Chancellor’s Office

cc: Assemblymember Quirk-Silva  
Members of the Senate Committee on Appropriations