June 25, 2013

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

RE: Assembly Bill 1364 (Ting) 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 1364 by Assemblymember Ting. The bill increases the maximum Cal Grant B Access award from $1,551 to $1,710, deletes the specific authority to adjust the maximum award amount in the annual Budget Act, and requires that the access award be adjusted annually to reflect the percentage increase, if any, in the California Consumer Price Index. Current law authorizes adjustments to maximum the grant award in the annual Budget Act.

The Cal Grant B Access Award was worth $900 in 1969-70, its year of inception. If this award had kept pace with inflation, it would be valued at $5,900 today in contrast to the current maximum award which is $1,551. Assembly Bill 1364 will help ensure fairness and allow California Community College students to achieve their educational aspirations by increasing the maximum annual Cal Grant access award to $1,710.

Community college students face tremendous unmet financial need which jeopardizes their chances for successful completion of a college education. The proposed increase to the Cal Grant B Access Award would be most welcome to help community college students meet the growing challenges of college affordability and completion of education goals.

The California Community Colleges 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,

[Signature]

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

cc: Assemblymember Phillip Ting
Members of the Senate Committee on Appropriations