



Office of the Mayor

City Hall
14177 Frederick Street
P.O. Box 88005
Moreno Valley, CA 92552-0805
Phone: 951.413.3008
Fax: 951.413.3760
www.moval.org

May 21, 2020

VIA EMAIL: ExternalAffairs@gov.ca.gov

Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Opposition to budget cuts to community colleges

Dear Governor Newsom:

California's community colleges educate more than two million students; more than 15,000 of them attend Moreno Valley College (MVC). As Mayor of Moreno Valley, I write to express my concern about the proposal to cut funding for community colleges by hundreds of millions of dollars and defer scheduled funding of hundreds of millions of dollars more. Even when the economy was strong, MVC played an important role in our community. Now, with so many of our residents out of work, we need it even more to be ready and able to enroll students seeking new career pathways and training.

Officials at MVC estimate the proposed cuts to community college funding would mean a loss to their campus of approximately \$10 million. That could translate into a reduction of 185 course sections across all disciplines and a resulting inability to properly serve our students. Many of these courses are designed to train our workforce for tomorrow to ensure that California remains an economic and innovation powerhouse. For lack of access to the courses they need, our students would face extending their enrollment in hopes of being able to complete their education. Many who cannot afford to wait would likely quit without completing their academic pathways.

As a state, we simply cannot afford to cut community college services. MVC and other campuses are already experiencing an enrollment surge, a trend commonly seen during times of high unemployment. Access to job training and an opportunity to begin a new career is crucial for many Moreno Valley residents. Lack of access would certainly delay our local economic recovery.

I understand that you and the Legislature must make some very difficult choices. But I urge you to keep education our state's highest priority.

Respectfully,



Dr. Yxstian Gutierrez
Mayor
City of Moreno Valley

c: Senator Richard D. Roth, Tyler.Madary@sen.ca.gov
Assemblymember Jose Medina, Rita.medina@asm.ca.gov
MVC President Robin Steinback, robin.steinback@mvc.edu
Riverside Community College District Board of Trustees, Eden.Andom@mvc.edu
Toni Atkins, Senate President Pro Tempore, senator.atkins@senate.ca.gov
Holly Mitchell, Chair-Senate Budget, Victoria.gomez@sen.ca.gov
Anthony Rendon, Speaker of the Assembly, assemblymember.rendon@assembly.ca.gov
Phil Ting, Chair-Assembly Budget Committee, assemblymember.ting@assembly.ca.gov
Kevin McCarty, Chair-Assembly Budget, assemblymember.mccarty@assembly.ca.gov

