



April 15, 2011

Dear Students,

This is a pivotal moment for California. We are currently facing challenges that will require us to make difficult decisions about the future of education in our state. But it is up to us all; students, faculty, staff, administrators, civic leaders and elected officials to work together on solving problems right where we are with the goal of arriving at where we all want to be.

That is why I am honored to welcome you to the Mobilize.org Target 2020 California Summit. Over the next three days, you will share your experiences, contribute your ideas and develop solutions that will help students on your campuses and in your communities overcome barriers they face in achieving their academic goals. I am well aware that this process will not be easy, but as your Chancellor, I am committed to listening, to being a part of the discussion and to learning from your conversations.

My vision for the future of California's community colleges continues to be centered on student success and this requires a commitment from us all to be more active and more creative with the ways we share our stories. It also calls for us to be more resourceful with the people and programs available to us in order to meet the educational needs of our communities. Because no one knows what your campus needs more than you, I am certain your contributions at this summit and the projects you will take back to serve individuals in your community will help us reach our collective educational goals.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the bills we are currently advocating for in the State Capital. Senate Bill 1440 is a historic measure that will ensure more effective transfer and also increase the number of our students receiving the Associate Degree.

Senate Bill 1143 calls upon the Board of Governors to appoint a blue ribbon task force to study and recommend concrete ways to improve student success.

While we are working in Sacramento, we need you working in your community. Visit your legislator's office, invite them to your campus, share your stories and show them how your school is preparing to rebuild and strengthen our economy by preparing people for jobs in your district. Then ask them to do what they can to support you and your peers. Our collective voice is much stronger than any one will ever be on its own.

On behalf of my colleagues around the state, I congratulate you on being selected to attend the Target 2020 California Summit. You are all models of student success who will help us institute effective policies, implement best practices and eliminate barriers that inhibit us from reaching our goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Scott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jack Scott
Chancellor of the California Community Colleges