



10/25/2012

Dear Vice Chancellor Van Ton-Quinlivan,

Last week at our state-wide Child Development Advisory Committee and California Community College Early Childhood Educators (CCCECE) meetings we discussed the perspective and changes outlined on your Doing What Matters web pages as well as the changes proposed in the 1B funding stream. We applaud the efforts to focus again on creating jobs, especially in these difficult economic times.

We request that you continue the funding of the FCS grants that have been successful for so long. CCCECE has received these funds for several years and they have made an enormous difference in the vitality and effectiveness of our organization and in the instruction we offer our students. Because of these funds we are able to hold two regional meetings in each of our 10 districts annually. At these meetings child development faculty are kept abreast of the latest issues in the field and we collaboratively discuss best teaching practices, how we can better support students, and how we can develop and strengthen our relationships with the many community agencies that ultimately hire our students. The support we received from this grant helped fund our advocacy efforts when the governor proposed virtually eliminating campus child care during our last budget cycle. This would have left approximately 9,000 students and employees without the care they need to achieve their educational and career goals. It also would have destroyed the lab schools where 50,000 child development students go to learn how to be teachers under the guidance of trained staff and faculty. We consider the FCS grant absolutely essential to helping the child development departments throughout the state meet the high expectations of our students and the communities we serve.

My second request is that you move child development /early childhood education to a significantly higher priority than its proposed "maintenance" level. My reasons for this request are as follows:

- The education we provide our students ultimately will be the underpinning of all the efforts to support California's workforce. Without high quality child care/ece in our communities women (and many men) will be unable to work. The child development departments are the linchpin in ensuring we have a well-educated ECE workforce.

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- Child Development is a discipline that consistently delivers for our communities and our workforce. The Curriculum Alignment Project became the model for and the precursor to SB 1440. Currently over 60 community college child development departments have
- aligned their core curriculum with each other (and the rest are in process). This assures that students can move easily among our colleges without loss of units and easily traverse the AS-T in child development. We are currently engaged in a system whereby the newly defined ECE Workforce Competencies released by CDE are being integrated with our course work and a competency assessment tool is being piloted.
- We are both big and effective. We know there are at least 50,000 students enrolled in the CCC system who are on an ECE career pathway. These are students who are enrolled in two child development classes. Additionally according to the ARCC report we are the largest issuer of vocational certificates, the second largest issuer of Total Credit awards and the fourth largest issuer of AA/AS degrees.

Thank you for your attention to these issues.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joel Gordon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Joel Gordon
President CCCECE
Dean, Child Development and Teacher Preparation
Santa Rosa Junior College