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December 6, 2022

California Community Colleges Board of Governors
1102 Q Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: ASCCC Support for Baccalaureate Degrees

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges wishes to express our support for the approval of all ten proposed new baccalaureate degree programs in California's community colleges.

The passage of SB 850 (Block) in 2015 authorized the first fifteen baccalaureate programs in the California Community Colleges System, provided that these programs were in fields that did not duplicate baccalaureate programs in public universities. This legislation allowed the system to follow national trends in meeting workforce and student needs in fields that give preference to applicants with bachelor's degrees rather than associate degrees. The programs were overwhelmingly successful in offering lower cost baccalaureate degrees to place-bound students, often students from diverse backgrounds, and in helping to meet local community workforce needs. In 2021, AB 927 (Medina) made these pilot programs permanent and provided all of California's community colleges with the opportunity to offer new baccalaureate programs under provisions similar to those established for the original pilot.

In the initial set of proposals for new baccalaureate programs, the California State University system found "no duplication of existing baccalaureate degree programs within the CSU" in seven of the ten of the applications. However, the CSU found that three proposals would "duplicate one or more existing baccalaureate degree programs offered by the CSU /or UC." Those three proposals are as follows: BS in Biomanufacturing from Moorpark College, BS in Ecosystem Restoration and Applied Fire from Feather River College, and BS in Cyber Defense and Analysis from San Diego City College.

The California Community College Baccalaureate Association (CCCBA) has reviewed the proposals, as has the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office staff. Both reviews found no evidence of bachelor's program duplication in these three proposals. The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges supports these findings and agrees with the CCCBA that the criteria and conditions indicated in AB 927 have been adhered to in all ten proposals. Appropriate processes have been followed by both the colleges and the CCCCO. These degrees are well-conceived and are needed both by students and by industry in the communities served by the colleges.

The determining factors in the approval of any academic program should be the needs and success of students and the economic benefit to the state. The positions and exclusive province of the California State University should not be allowed to override these essential considerations. The goals and purposes of the California Community Colleges baccalaureate degrees are to provide local access to job-related higher education opportunities, provide education in an affordable manner, and serve the

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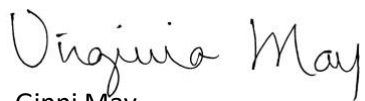
ASCCC Support for Baccalaureate Degrees

interests of the economy and workforce needs of the state of California. All **ten** of the proposed degrees directly serve those goals and purposes. Consideration for local unmet workforce needs, regional duplication, and potential impact on place-bound students while acknowledging the different roles and philosophical intentions of each system's baccalaureate degrees, including in preparing students for careers, post-graduate education, and on-going research is a student-centered approach for determining measurement of program duplication.

For these reasons, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges urges you to support the approval of all ten proposed baccalaureate degree programs.

We offer our thanks for your efforts to support students in achieving success and reaching their goals. Please feel free to contact us if we may be of any assistance in these efforts.

Sincerely,



Ginni May
President