

Date of Hearing: March 19, 2019

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Jose Medina, Chair

ACR 31 (Limón) – As Amended March 11, 2019

SUBJECT: California Community College Month.

SUMMARY: Recognizes April 2019 as California Community College (CCC) Month. Specifically, **this resolution:**

- 1) Makes numerous declarations and findings, including:
 - a) California’s 115 community colleges provide an excellent general educational foundation for more than 2.2 million students;
 - b) The CCCs train students to be competitive in today’s demanding workforce, providing the skills and knowledge students need to obtain a productive, higher-wage future, and supplying the state’s fastest-growing industries with the skilled labor upon which their success depends; and,
 - c) The CCCs bring higher education within the reach of every Californian because of their open admissions, low enrollment fees, financial assistance for low-income students, academic and career guidance, excellent teaching by dedicated faculty, and specialized support services for students who need extra help with the transition to college or the master of college-level coursework.
- 2) Recognizes April 2019 as California Community College Month.
- 3) Commends the state’s community colleges on providing opportunity and excellence in higher education and workforce preparation.
- 4) Urges Californians to participate in public events held on their local community college campuses during California Community College Month.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the mission and function of the CCC: to offer academic and vocational instruction at the lower division level; authorizes the CCC to grant the associate in arts and the associate in science degree; and, requires the CCC to offer remedial instruction, English as a Second Language instruction, and adult noncredit instruction, and support services which help students succeed at the postsecondary level (Education Code (EC) Section 66010.4)
- 2) Requires the CCC Board of Governors (BOG) to provide leadership and direction in the continuing development of the CCCs as an integral and effective element in the structure of public higher education in the state. The work of the BOG shall at all times be directed to maintaining and continuing, to the maximum degree permissible, local authority and control in the administration of the CCCs (EC Section 70901).

FISCAL EFFECT: None. This resolution is key non-fiscal by the Legislative Counsel.

COMMENTS: *Purpose of this resolution.* According to the author, “California’s Community Colleges (CCCs) are an essential resource of the State of California. The CCCs train students to be competitive in today’s workforce and prepare students to successfully transfer to a four-year university”.

This resolution calls for the state to commemorate the CCCs for their contribution in ensuring a higher education can be attained for millions of students.

National Community College Month. According to the American Association of Community Colleges, the country’s rapidly growing public high schools were seeking new ways to serve their communities; in recognition of the important contribution of community, technical, and junior colleges to the total educational system, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 158, designated the month of February 1986, as National Community College Month and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this event.

President Ronald Reagan, on December 6, 1985, issued Proclamation 5418, declaring February 1986, as National Community College Month and asking all Americans to observe the month with appropriate activities that express the recognition of the significant contribution community colleges make to the strength, vitality, and prosperity of the Nation.

To note, sometime between 1986 and today, the observed month changed to April.

Community colleges. According to the American Association of Community Colleges, nationwide, in part, community colleges:

- 1) Serve almost half of the undergraduates in America;
- 2) Play an essential role in the delivery of education and career preparation; and,
- 3) Function as a bridge, or guided pathway, between high school and career or further education opportunities.

To note, the CCC is the largest community college system in the nation; with 115 campuses and over two million students.

Prior legislation. ACR 45 (Hertzberg), Resolution Chapter 35, Statutes of 2001, recognized April 2001, as California Community College Month.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
Community College League of California

Opposition

None on file.

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