

*Erik Skinner*  
*Deputy Chancellor*  
*California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office*  
*1102 Q Street*  
*Sacramento, CA 95811-6549*  
[\*eskinner@cccco.edu\*](mailto:eskinner@cccco.edu)  
[\*916-323-7007\*](tel:916-323-7007)

**Stability of Equity and Student Success Funding:** As our system continues to implement the initiative that was launched by the Student Success Task Force, it is clear that there are tremendously innovative and exciting strategies taking root across our 113 colleges. Much of this activity is supported by the Student Success and Support Program (SSSP) and Student Equity Program, both of which have been strongly supported by the Governor and Legislature with a significant infusion of resources. The 2015-16 Budget provides \$285 million for SSSP and \$155 million for student equity. These programs allow our colleges considerable latitude to craft local strategies and programs to promote student success and close achievement gaps. As you continue to implement those strategies, it is imperative that you leverage these funds to create permanent, institutionalized change. That is the reason that state leaders have given us these funds and it is only through lasting change that our students will sustain improvement in their success. These funds are now considered part of our base funding by both the Chancellor's Office and state leaders, so you should allocate them with confidence that they will reoccur and use the funds to make permanent improvements in how your college improves student success. When we face another recession, which we will at some point, our system must commit to treating SSSP and Student Equity as base funding, and spread any necessary budget reductions across general apportionment funding as well. While this is a departure from past practice, it is the only way we will sustain the strides you are making in student success through good budgets and bad. We have entered a new era as a system and we cannot turn back.