

**MEMORANDUM**  
OFFICE OF THE  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
COUNTY OF PLACER

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Kirk Uhler, Supervisor, District 4  
Thomas M. Miller, County Executive Officer

**DATE:** April 5, 2011

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION** – Present a Resolution in support of “Hands Across California” to draw awareness of the impact community colleges have on the state and to create a permanent \$100 million endowment scholarship fund to benefit community college students for generations to come.

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

Present a Resolution in support of “Hands Across California” to draw awareness of the impact community colleges have on the state and to create a permanent \$100 million endowment scholarship fund to benefit community college students for generations to come.

**BACKGROUND**

The California community college system is the largest in the nation with nearly 3 million students attending each year at the 112 colleges spanning the state. However, that number represents a decline in enrollment for the first time in five years largely due to financial hardships and the rising costs of textbooks, software, uniforms, equipment and other supplies above attendance fees that often make continued education cost prohibitive.

In recognition of the need to address this pressing issue, the Foundation for California Community Colleges is collaborating with all state community colleges to raise \$50 million for which the Osher Foundation will provide a 50% match, up to \$25 million if raised by June 2011. These funds along with \$25 million already donated will create a \$100 million endowment scholarship fund to benefit current and future community college students.

On April 17, 2011, “Hands Across California” will join 1.5 million people over 1,500 miles hand-in-hand to connect the 112 community colleges in California stretching from San Diego in the southern part of the state to Sierra College in Placer County at the most northern point of the human chain. This event is designed to bring national attention to the impact of the increased costs of education for community colleges for current and future generations of students and to raise the funds necessary to secure the endowment fund. The Placer County Board of Supervisors supports this effort.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None

In the matter of a Resolution in support of Resolution No. 2011-75  
"Hands Across California" to draw awareness of the impact  
community colleges have on the state and to create a permanent \$100 million  
endowment scholarship fund to benefit community college students for generations to come.

**WHEREAS**, this Spring marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of "Hands Across America", the largest public demonstration in the nation's history that brought attention to the serious issue of hunger and homelessness in America and it serves as the model for the April 17<sup>th</sup> California campaign, "Hands Across California." This campaign is designed to bring national attention to the impact of the increased costs of education on community colleges and to establish a \$100 million endowment fund through sponsorship pledges in support of the event that will benefit current and future generations of students; and

**WHEREAS**, the event will join 1.5 million people over 1,500 miles hand-in-hand to connect the 112 community colleges in California stretching from San Diego in the southern part of the state to Sierra College in Placer County at the most northern point of the human chain; and

**WHEREAS**, California Community Colleges make it possible for everyone, regardless of income level or background, to achieve the dream of a higher education leading to three out of every 10 Californians age 18-24 to currently be enrolled in a Community College; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the California Community College Chancellor's office, almost 60% of graduates of the California State University system and 30% of the University of California system transferred from a California Community College; 80% of firefighters, law enforcement officers, and emergency medical technicians are credentialed at Community Colleges; 70% of the nurses in California received their education from Community Colleges, more than half of California veterans receiving GI educational benefits attend a Community College; nearly 90% of full-time students are in need of financial aid, and almost half (47%) of all students have no resources to pay for college; and

**WHEREAS**, the California community college system is the largest in the nation with nearly 3 million students attending each year at the 112 colleges spanning the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the unprecedented budget crisis and critical need to provide educational tools to allow all citizens the opportunity to attend college stimulated the, "Hands Across California" project to demonstrate a powerful visual unity recognizing the value of education and the need for funds to aid students in paying the rising costs of a college education; and

**WHEREAS**, the California community college system is the largest in the nation with nearly 3 million students attending each year at the 112 colleges spanning the state. However, that number represents a decline in enrollment for the first time in five years largely due to financial hardships and the rising costs of textbooks, software, uniforms, equipment and other supplies above attendance fees that often make continued education cost prohibitive; and

**WHEREAS**, maintaining college education opportunities is critical to continue keeping California competitive in the global economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the California Community Colleges offer more than 175 associate degree and certificate programs, along with technical and vocational training that prepare students from all ethnic and economic backgrounds for transfer to four-year institutions, provide lifelong learning and train a workforce that sustains California's economy.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer, on behalf of the citizens of Placer County, support "Hands Across California" to draw awareness of the impact community colleges have on the state and to create a permanent \$100 million endowment scholarship fund to benefit community college students for generations to come.

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Robert M. Weygandt, Supervisor, District 2  
Chairman 2011

Jack Duran  
Supervisor, District 1

Kirk Uhler  
Supervisor, District 4

Jim Holmes  
Supervisor, District 3

Jennifer Montgomery  
Supervisor, District 5