



April 7, 2014

To: California Community College Chancellors Office

From: The Academic Senate of Contra Costa College

Re: SB 850 Support for BSN at Contra Costa College

The Contra Costa College Academic Senate voted on April 7, 2014 to support Senate Bill (SB) 850 (Block) and specifically support the implementation of a Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree at Contra Costa College (CCC). The CCC Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) Program has a storied history, dating to 1960, and CCC ADN Program graduates apply their passion for human dignity and health throughout Contra Costa County and beyond. We seek to continue this social contract at a level commensurate with the current and future needs of those entrusted to the care of our nursing graduates.

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) collaborated on a two-year initiative resulting in the IOM releasing “The Future of Nursing” in October 2010. The IOM recommended that the proportion of nurses with baccalaureate degrees reach 80 percent by 2020. As a result, clinical partners in Contra Costa County and elsewhere are seeking to hire BSN students to fill current workforce needs. Importantly, existing capacity limits at public institutions that award the BSN degree have been capped and ADN students face disenfranchisement from affordable options in seeking a BSN education. As a result, the Academic Senate of Contra Costa College recognizes the need for the California Community College Baccalaureate Degree to leverage the quality education provided by the California Community College system in safeguarding nursing’s social contract for health while addressing current and emergent workforce demands.

Respectfully,

Wayne Organ  
Academic Senate President, Chair  
Contra Costa College

**Resolution in support of authorizing California Community Colleges to offer  
baccalaureate degrees and offering a Nursing  
Baccalaureate Degree at Contra Costa College**

**Whereas**, there are community colleges successfully offering baccalaureate degrees in 21 states;

**Whereas**, authorizing community colleges to grant baccalaureate degrees in accordance with the criteria set forth in Senate Bill 850 in order to increase access for underserved areas and populations, remove barriers to completion, and benefit the state's economy;

**Whereas**, the demand for baccalaureate-level graduates in Career and Technical Education fields is increasing, and the demand for baccalaureate-trained graduates is projected to exceed the capacity of the public and private universities to provide them by 60,000 degrees by 2025, and;

**Whereas**, the California State University system does not provide baccalaureate degrees in many CTE areas and is projected to be even less likely to be able to do so in the future, and is faced with limited capacity in important disciplines such as nursing;

**Resolved**, that the Contra Costa College Academic Senate supports authorizing California community colleges to offer applied baccalaureates in career and technical fields in accordance with the criteria set forth in Senate Bill 850;

**Resolved**, that the Contra Costa College Academic Senate work with the college President, the district Chancellor, and the local Board of Trustees to encourage local legislators to draft or support legislation enabling California community colleges to offer applied baccalaureate degrees;

**Resolved**, the Contra Costa College Academic Senate encourages the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges to support this initiative;

**Resolved**, the Contra Costa College Academic Senate directs the Academic Senate President to send a letter of support for Senate Bill 850 to the California Community College Chancellor's office, a copy of which is attached to this Resolution; and

**Resolved**, that the Contra Costa College Academic Senate supports the Contra Costa College Nursing program in its plans to offer the first such degree as soon as it is allowed to do so.

## Catalog Changes and automatic awarding of degrees -ASC Ledbetter presentation

### Background

Catalog changes are currently approved by CIC and published in annual catalogs or addendums. This can result in unreasonable delays. CORs must also receive CIC approval which can result in months of delay before courses can be approved for C-IDs or transfer articulation. One example was the recent Chemistry 119 COR which was changed a week after CSU request in November 2013, but not CIC approved until March, 2014. As another example, the STEM certificate was approved by CIC in March of 2012 and received CCCC approval in December, 2013. Students cannot be awarded the certificate until after June 2014, a full two years after CIC approval! As another example, the Physics ADT was approved by the CCCC in December yet it is unclear when the students may petition for the degree. A planned hire for an instruction office may improve some of these unreasonable delays, but the problem is policy rather than personnel.

Students must petition to receive a degree or certificate from CCC. ARO personnel then verify that students meet the requirements according to the catalog for which the petitioner has applied. More recently, a student planning tool has been distributed which shows individual student progress for specific awards. No general degree audit is performed which would show which students have completed the requirements for a degree or certificate. Students must petition for the award. Imagine if students were required to petition to have every course they took added to their transcript!

### Recommendations

1. Authorize department chairpersons direct control over the sections of the electronic version of the catalog for their respective programs so that real time changes can be made once approved by CIC and/or Governing Board/ CCCC. The catalog should link directly to CORs which should be entirely under department chairperson's control- CIC approval should not be required for changes to a COR.
2. Discontinue printing of catalog since the electronic version can be downloaded and printed in real time.
3. Direct ARO to perform a degree audit for all continuing students in November and April each year using the electronic catalog in effect at that time. Send students an email showing the degrees and certificates that will be shown on their transcripts unless they otherwise petition to have them removed. Allow students to continue to petition for awards based on previous catalog versions.