

**REMARKS TO THE  
CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
President Robert C. Dynes  
January 13, 2004**

Thank you for the opportunity to join you today. I appreciated the invitation and am delighted to be able to join the discussion.

I want to, first, thank Tom Nussbaum for his dedicated service to the California Community Colleges, and to public higher education in California. Tom has been a committed advocate for students and for access to college, and the collaborative efforts of our two systems have increased under his leadership. Tom, I hope you enjoy a well-deserved retirement.

I also want to welcome Mark Drummond as chancellor. I know Mark is an equally energetic advocate for public higher education, someone who has gained a great deal of important experience as head of the Los Angeles system, and I'm very much looking forward to working with him. We have a lot of work to do together.

You may know – I hope you know – that I am a big supporter of intersegmental approaches to common challenges. At UC San Diego, where I served as chancellor until recently, I placed a great deal of emphasis on expanding relationships with the community colleges and improving the transfer function.

I've brought that commitment with me to the President's Office, and it is a commitment shared by many throughout our system.

As evidence of how seriously we take this, our Board of Regents this very week is going to be reviewing a report on the progress of our transfer initiative with the community colleges and engaging in a discussion about the future in this regard.

We have a very good foundation to build on, thanks in large part to the results of the Memorandum of Understanding between the community colleges and UC that was signed several years ago by Chancellor Nussbaum and my predecessor, Dick Atkinson.

Under the MOU, since 1998-99, the UC enrollment of California Community College students has grown at an average annual rate of 6 percent, nearly doubling the historical growth rate. If transfer enrollment continues to grow at this rate, we will surpass the 2005-06 MOU enrollment target of 14,500 community college students transferring to UC.

These students also are doing well when they get to UC. Persistence and graduation rates have improved steadily over the last decade – to cite just one statistic, more than 92% of community college students who enroll at UC complete their first year and enroll for a second. And their grades as upper-division UC undergraduates are right in line with those of students who started at UC as freshmen.

So, while there is national concern about “transfer shock” the first year, transfers at UC are doing very well. I think it’s fair to say we’ve jointly become more effective at fostering transfer.

But clearly, under the governor’s budget, we’re going to have to become even better. As you’ve been discussing, the governor is proposing that some UC- and CSU-eligible students be redirected to the community colleges -- and provided the support to transfer later on and obtain their four-year degree.

I am certainly distressed at the prospect of UC-eligible students being turned away from the University. These are extraordinarily talented students who have worked hard in school and who have a lot to contribute to our state if we invest in their education.

But if the governor’s proposal is approved, I’m here to say that we at the University are committed to making it work. We will do our part to support these students and maximize their ability to obtain a four-year degree from the University. I think it’s important we work together, as a system of public higher education, in the best interests of the students.

I want to talk with Chancellor-Designate Drummond and many others of you about the most effective ways of doing that – about how we can best work together to support these students.

Let me close by highlighting the news that the leaders of Hewlett Packard and Intel made last week when they talked about their companies’ need for foreign workers and the importance of the U.S. investing in education if it is to remain globally competitive.

In California, we have a great blueprint for making higher education broadly accessible, cost-effective for the state, and efficient in producing the graduates who can indeed keep the state economically competitive. It’s called the Master Plan for Higher Education, and for 44 years, it has worked.

The Master Plan has offered universal access to college, and at the same time it has offered a mission differentiation among institutions that has minimized duplication, minimized the cost to taxpayers, and ensured that every talented student who wants it has a clear route to the highest-quality graduate training available in any public system of higher education in the country.

We, the community colleges and the University of California, are different institutions. The Master Plan respects that -- and considers it a strength to have a variety of different educational institutions in California, offering different kinds of experiences. But it also expects us to work together and serve the students.

I hope we will continue to work together – our institutions in partnership with the state, which is responsible for the funding part – to keep the promise of the Master Plan. I

think it's vitally important, for the students of our state and for California's economic future, that we continue our commitment to the vision that Clark Kerr and his colleagues set out 44 years ago.

That is my focus as we look to another difficult budget year.

With that, I will close. Thank you again for the opportunity to be here today; I look forward to our continuing conversation.