

County of San Mateo

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County Manager's Office

Date February 7, 2001
Hearing Date. February 13, 2001

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: John Maltbie, County Manager

SUBJECT: County Manager's Report

LEGISLATIVE REPORT #2

1. For the third year in a row the Governor's proposed state budget contains significant new ongoing funds for education. Included in the \$100 billion plus spending plan is \$900 million for new school programs, including \$100 million to extend the middle school year by 30 days, \$335 million for teacher training, \$125 million to settle special education law suit, 11.3 % increase for University of California (UC), 7.8% increase California State University (CSU) and an 8.3% increase for California's Community Colleges.

The Governor's 2001-02 Proposed State Budget includes a \$1 million appropriation to develop a model partnership between San Mateo County's, Canada Community College with San Francisco State University (SFSU): **Pathways."**

Background

"**Pathways**" would create a new, cooperative and cost-efficient model for delivery of four-year degree programs in high demand transfer and employment areas (electrical engineering, computer information science, multimedia, networking, biotech, business, teacher education and teacher credentialing, health sciences and careers). It would alleviate overcrowding at SFSU and fill capacity at Cañada.

The proposed \$1 million would be allocated primarily --(\$625,000 -- to renovate electrical engineering labs and classrooms at Canada with the remaining \$375,000 to plan and assess the programs which could be introduced at other colleges if it proves successful on the Peninsula.

The goal is over the next 3-5 years, to bring 6-8 four-year degree programs to Cañada. Cañada offers first two years; SFSU offers upper division and grants degree. All classes to be taken at Cañada College. The plan is to open with electrical engineering and teacher credential program in Fall 2001.

It is argued that the Pathways partnership would serve to:

- Increase number of graduates in high demand employment areas for a region that is currently importing skilled workers from other countries;
- Improve access to four-year public degree programs for San Mateo County residents. San Mateo County (population 730,000) has no public four-year public college,

- Alleviate overcrowding at SFSU. Currently thousands of students at SFSU can't get the courses they need when they need them. As a result fewer than ¼ of students complete their degree in five years;
- Improve access to affordable four-year programs for underrepresented students and other San Mateo County residents who—because of work or family obligations, commute time or cost—can't travel to SFSU, San Jose State or California State University, Hayward,
- Provide accessible career enhancements/opportunities for Silicon Valley workers; and
- Improve transfer rates by providing convenient, well-articulated programs.

Anticipated positive impacts:

- Responds to Tidal Wave II: the State anticipates 500,000 to 700,000 new college students by 2007 with only one new university planned, UC Merced),
- Efficiently allocates state resources by assigning first two years to community colleges and last two to State University. The State saves more than \$12,000 for each student who attends 2 years at a community college and then transfers, compared to students who complete all 4 years at a state college. Students and families also save;
- Demonstrates the efficient use of higher education facilities;
- Can be replicated elsewhere in the State; and
- Improves transfers, which is a problem for students, and upper and lower division institutions.

Comments

The San Mateo County Human Services Agency (HSA) currently has a collaborative relationship with Canada College, developing the first Human Services Certificate program in the State. This was originally developed to meet HSA's needs of re-training staff to meet the performance requirements of federal and state welfare reform as well as the County's SUCCESS Program. An educational ladder was developed with the Community College to provide (1) in-service training; (2) Family Development Credential (FDC) in collaboration with the Community College Foundation of California, (3) Human Services Certificate, (4) AA Degree, and (5) building the bridge to the four-year degree. Pathways would be that bridge.

Additionally, many CalWORKS recipients rely on Community College programs to secure the necessary education and additional training to advance to higher paying jobs and avail themselves to more secure career opportunities. Access to an affordable institution of higher education is necessary to the long-term success of welfare reform.

Finally, the lack of access to a public institution of higher education has been identified as an impediment to recruitment and retention of employees in San Mateo County. Access to higher education would be a benefit to industry as well as local agencies' ability to recruit and retain employees from *within* San Mateo County.

Recommendation

Support includes, all of the San Francisco and San Mateo County legislative delegation, Honorable Ruben Barrales, Joint Ventures Silicon Valley, E-TRADE, Hewlett Packard, Genentech, Sand Hill

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Foundation and San Mateo County Economic Development Association (SAMCEDA) Last year, your Board supported a similar, but unsuccessful budget request

Attached for your consideration is a resolution in support of the Governor's proposed \$1 million appropriation to initiate the Pathways model public higher education partnership between Canada Community College and San Francisco State University, located in Redwood City, serving San Mateo County residents.

Resolution No _____

Board of Supervisors, County of San Mateo, State of California

**Resolution in Support of \$1 million State Grant for
Canada College/San Francisco State University Partnership**

Resolved, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that

Whereas, the Governor's Proposed 2001-02 State Budget includes a \$1 million grant for Cañada College and San Francisco State University to develop an innovative and cost effective model to deliver four-year degree programs in high demand areas, such as teaching and electrical engineering, at Cañada College, a community college in Redwood City, San Mateo County;

Whereas, Governor Davis has undertaken this project as one of his own initiatives, an endorsement of *Pathways*, that would make a four-year degree more accessible for Peninsula residents who can't get to San Francisco, San Jose State or California State University, Hayward, because of jobs, family responsibilities, commute time or cost; *Pathways* is designed to enable economically and geographically place-bound San Mateo County students the opportunity to complete a four-year degree program close to home and work,

Whereas, a graduate program to credential teachers at the high school and elementary school level would start this summer at Cañada, providing the opportunity to the more than 500 teachers in San Mateo County currently using "emergency teaching credentials to continue to teach while enrolled in a credential program;

Whereas, starting in September, the electrical engineering degree program is expected to attract 25 to 50 students the first year, which according to regional job studies is a job category in particularly high demand in San Mateo County where a number of foreign engineers have been imported to help meet that demand;

Whereas, the majority of the state grant – \$625,000 – will be used to renovate electrical engineering labs and classrooms at Cañada, the remaining \$375,000 is for planning and assessment for the program, which could be introduced at other colleges if it proves successful on the Peninsula;

Whereas, *Pathways* is expected to include six to eight four-year degree programs at Cañada with students taking the first two years of their program as community college students and the last two as SFSU students. Their degrees will be awarded by SFSU. The planners say the program also is cost effective because it costs \$12,000 less to educate a student for two years at a California community college than at a state university;

Whereas, according to officials at both colleges, the program will help ease overcrowding in particular programs at San Francisco State while taking advantage of underused facilities at Cañada. Because of the difficulty in getting into classes at SFSU, less than a quarter of the students complete their degrees in five years, which is costly to students, families and State taxpayers,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors support the \$1 million state appropriation necessary to develop the model partnership between Canada Community College and San Francisco State University which would increase the opportunity for public higher education for the people of San Mateo County and California.