

GOVERNOR GRAY DAVIS

July 15, 1999

Dr. Charles B. Reed, Chancellor  
California State University  
400 Golden Shore  
Long Beach, CA 90802

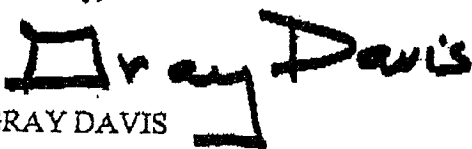
Dear Chancellor Reed:

I strongly support community service and believe that a service ethic should be taught and reinforced as a lasting value in California. California's college and university students enjoy remarkable benefits from a taxpayer-supported system of higher education that is surpassed by none. I want our students to understand, as generations before them did, the importance of contributing to their communities. To that end, I request California's public colleges and universities establish a community service requirement for undergraduate students at the University of California, the California State University, and the California Community Colleges. I write to request that you join me in my call to service.

The task of creating a community service requirement presents an exciting opportunity to effect positive change, so it is important that it be approached thoughtfully. I ask you to develop a plan for adoption by the Trustees that would establish a graduation requirement for community service. I further request that you ask the appropriate faculty committee to work with their faculty colleagues at the University of California and California Community Colleges through the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates to create a proposal implementing a community service graduation requirement at all three segments of higher education. Knowing the complexity and scope of the issues to be deliberated, I request that you ask the appropriate committee to work expeditiously and report back to you and to the Trustees with their findings.

I have asked Secretary Hart to work with you in the development of the plan and to keep me regularly apprised regarding progress on this matter. I look forward to working with you and the Trustees on this issue.

Sincerely,

  
GRAY DAVIS



SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION



GRAY DAVIS  
GOVERNOR

GARY K. HART  
SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION

JULY 15, 1999

## State of California

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### STATEMENT BY SECRETARY GARY K. HART.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY: THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSAL FOR A COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENT FOR CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UNIVERSITY GRADUATES. I BELIEVE YOU HAVE BEFORE YOU A COMMUNICATION FROM THE GOVERNOR TO PRESIDENT ATKINSON THAT OUTLINES THE GOVERNOR'S VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT AND I WANT TO ELABORATE BRIEFLY ON THE GOVERNOR'S LETTER.

THE GOVERNOR STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT A SERVICE ETHIC SHOULD BE TAUGHT AND ACTED UPON IN OUR PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND THAT THROUGH A COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENT STUDENTS CAN GIVE BACK TO THEIR COMMUNITIES AND LEARN THE IMPORTANCE AND SATISFACTION OF CONTRIBUTING TO THOSE IN NEED.

THE GOVERNOR BELIEVES THAT CALIFORNIA HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS RECEIVE A TREMENDOUS EDUCATION WHICH IS UNDERWRITTEN AT SIGNIFICANT TAXPAYERS EXPENSE AND THAT IT IS APPROPRIATE TO ASK THEM IN RETURN TO CONTRIBUTE A MODEST AMOUNT OF THEIR TIME TO COMMUNITY SERVICE.

IN ADDITION, I THINK IT WORTH NOTING THAT SUCH COMMUNITY SERVICE HAS IMPORTANT ANCILLARY BENEFITS AS WELL INCLUDING:

1) A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO HELPING ADDRESS MANY PRESSING SOCIAL PROBLEMS; 2) ENRICHING STUDENTS EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE BY LINKING CLASSROOM WORK TO THE BROADER COMMUNITY; AND 3) PROVIDING STUDENTS AN INTRODUCTION TO THE HELPING PROFESSIONS AND POSSIBLE CAREERS IN PUBLIC SERVICE.

THE GOVERNOR CERTAINLY UNDERSTANDS THAT HIS PROPOSAL UNDER REGENTS POLICY MUST BE REFERRED TO THE APPROPRIATE ACADEMIC COMMITTEES FOR COMMENT AND REVIEW AND HE WELCOMES FACULTY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION REGARDING HIS PROPOSAL. AS NOTED IN THE GOVERNOR'S LETTER, INTERSEGMENTAL COOPERATION OF THE UC, CSU AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC SENATES WILL BE IMPORTANT THROUGHOUT THIS REVIEW PROCESS. TO THE EXTENT THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL, I AND MY STAFF IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION ARE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST IN THIS CONSULTATION PROCESS.

IN ADDITION TO THE BASIC POLICY OF A COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENT, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES THAT NEED CAREFUL REVIEW. THESE INCLUDE, AS NOTED ABOVE, INTERSEGMENTAL CO-ORDINATION TO INSURE CONSISTENCY, LENGTH AND TIMING OF COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND WHAT KIND OF ACTIVITIES WILL QUALIFY AS COMMUNITY SERVICE.

IN THIS REGARD, I WANT TO NOTE FROM MY CONVERSATIONS WITH GOVERNOR DAVIS THAT HE FAVORS AN INCLUSIVE DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY SERVICE, FLEXIBILITY IN TIMES WHEN COMMUNITY SERVICE CAN BE PROVIDED, AND SENSITIVITY TO THE MANY OTHER

DEMANDS ON STUDENT TIME. IT IS ALSO HIS HOPE THAT WE CAN BUILD UPON THE MANY EXISTING ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES THAT EXIST ON OUR CAMPUSES FOR CURRENT COMMUNITY SERVICE RATHER THAN CREATING ENTIRELY NEW MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES.

IN CONCLUSION, LET ME AGAIN THANK THE REGENTS FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSAL ON COMMUNITY SERVICE. HE VIEWS IT AS A PROMISING OPPORTUNITY TO ENHANCE STUDENT LEARNING AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE BROADER COMMUNITY AND LOOKS FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE UNIVERSITY TO IMPLEMENT IT.