Thank you Chancellor Reed.

Teaching is the most important job there is

- Every young person has doubts about themselves.
- At one time or another, it happened to every person here today.
- Who was the person who believed in you, who supported you?
- Chances are, that person was a teacher. I know it was for me.

Isn’t that what got us all into teaching in the first place?

- Lord knows it wasn’t the hours, the pay, or the working conditions.
- It was a chance to make a difference for students – just as our teachers made a difference in our own lives.

It takes a leap of faith to choose teaching as a career

- Education students hear about budget cuts and pink slips - it’s alarming that the number of students enrolled in teacher training has dropped by half in the last seven years.
- We can’t afford to let financial uncertainty turn our next generation of teachers away from the profession before they get started.
- That’s one more reason why it’s critical that California get through its budget crisis – stop cutting school budgets – and get our schools back on solid financial ground.

Even as we address the crisis facing our state, we have to plan for the future - which is why I wanted to be here today.

Excited to see your focus on:

- After school programs as a tool to close the achievement gap
- Improved training for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
- Collaborating with districts to provide student teachers with clinical experience (similar to medical school students)
I'm a firm believer that some of the best future teachers are already working at schools.

• Some are teacher’s aides
• Some are working in afterschool programs
• They know the reality of today’s schools – and they still want the job.

Let’s nurture them. I sponsored legislation to expand paraprofessional teacher training – and I applaud the 9 CSU campuses already doing it.

We’re all in this together.

• CSUs need a pipeline of students who arrive ready for college, motivated to become teachers – that’s our job in the K-12 arena.
• We need CSUs to help their best and brightest see teaching as an option and give them the training they need to succeed in the classroom.
• That’s difficult when 60 percent of CSU freshmen need remedial courses before starting college-level work.

Commend all of you for being here today

• Urge you all to work today as though the future of California depends on you – it does.

• With your help, a new California will emerge – stronger, smarter more creative than ever.