



DATE: March 14, 2025

TO: Chabot-Las Positas Community College District

FROM: Chancellor Ronald P. Gerhard, CLPCCD  
President Dyrell Foster, Las Positas College  
President Jamal Cooks, Chabot College

SUBJECT: CLPCCD Communication – Policy Changes Affecting California Community Colleges

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As we navigate the evolving federal landscape, we want to take a moment to acknowledge your unwavering dedication to our students and communities. While recent policy changes and federal actions present both challenges and opportunities, we remain optimistic about our ability to adapt, advocate, and continue providing accessible, high-quality education.

Our mission has always been centered on serving our students with equity and excellence, and that commitment will not waver. We encourage us all to stay informed, engaged, and united in our work as we address these federal developments. Below is a summary of key policy updates that may impact our district and institutions across California.

### **Department of Education Workforce Reduction**

The U.S. Department of Education is reducing its workforce by nearly half, from over 4,100 to approximately 2,180 employees. This move aligns with President Trump's broader effort to scale down federal departments and shift responsibilities to states. Education Secretary Linda McMahon has indicated that this reduction is a step toward dismantling the department altogether, a move that would require Congressional approval. Officials at the Department of Education have indicated that the department will continue to deliver on its key functions such as the distribution of federal aid to schools, student loan management and oversight of Pell Grants.

### **Investigations into Alleged Antisemitism**

The Trump administration has launched investigations into 60 universities, including 10 in California, for alleged antisemitic harassment and discrimination. Institutions such as U.C. Berkeley and Stanford are under scrutiny, and the administration is threatening to revoke federal funding if they are found non-compliant.

### **Termination of Education Partnership Agreement with Antelope Valley College**

Some programs within the California Community College (CCC) system have been impacted by the federal government's actions to eliminate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives. We learned

this week that the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) has terminated its Education Partnership Agreement with Antelope Valley College, effective March 20, 2025. This action aligns with Executive Order 14151, *Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing*. This development reflects a broader federal shift away from DEI programs and is the third such letter (to our knowledge) received by a CCC.

### **Reflections**

These changes highlight the shifting federal policy environment in higher education. While some initiatives align with broader national priorities, others present challenges that will require a strategic response and strong advocacy, both of which are underway at the local, state, and national levels. CLPCCD is involved in these efforts.

As a district, we remain committed to our values of inclusion, academic excellence, and student success. We will continue to monitor these developments and work closely with our state and federal partners to ensure our colleges and students are supported. Thank you for your resilience and for being champions of higher education.