Dear Partner,

We saw great strides being taken for the future of education as newly-elected Gov. Gavin Newsom released his 2019-2020 budget proposal, which included significant funding for cradle to career education. The governor’s investment in education is in large part a reflection of our shared work to ensure California’s students receive the best education possible and the right pathways for a successful and stable future.

I would like to take a moment to reflect on this pivotal moment and thank you as our partner for your commitment, dedication and hard work, which has led us to a leadership that recognizes the importance of building effective education and career pathways for all children and youth.

Gov. Newsom’s proposed investments will expand access to a quality education, allowing for more low-income students to access high-wage employment and achieve upward socioeconomic mobility.

The budget proposal has significant cradle-to-career investments, particularly in early childhood education, targeting lower-income families. Additionally, as the State and region reap the benefits of a full-employment economy, we commend Gov. Newsom’s proposed investments that give businesses opportunities to acquire a skilled and qualified workforce.

Specific, proposed education and workforce development-related items the Chamber supports include:

- An allocated $1.8 billion in early childhood education funding
  - $124.9 million to phase in universal preschool for eligible four-year olds
  - $297.1 million for State-Preschool providers to draw reimbursement from a single funding source
  - $500 million for child care infrastructure by strengthening the workforce
  - $750 million to expand access for full-day, universal kindergarten
  - $247 million for enhancing child care infrastructure at the CSU

- Significant, new investments in our public higher education systems to fund enrollment growth, student success initiatives, and student support services and re-engage adults with some college, no degree

- $40 million for the expansion of the California College Promise to provide a second year of free community college tuition to first-time, full-time freshmen

- Increases in need-based financial aid, particularly for non-traditional students, including student-parents

- $27 million Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to increase job training and apprenticeships opportunities aligned to California’s gas emissions reduction strategy
• $75 million for immigration-related services, including assisting applicants seeking Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals
• Significant investments to help school districts with retirement and special education expenses

With you, the L.A. Area Chamber has worked hard and will continue working to improve our local education and workforce development systems to better serve Los Angeles youth from infancy through school and into the workforce. We are eager to observe how Gov. Newsom’s budget will enhance the lives of many and improve the State’s economy and well-being one student at a time. We look forward to engaging with Gov. Newsom’s administration, State Superintendent Thurmond, and the Legislature on these important issues.

Sincerely,

David Rattray
Executive Vice President, Center for Education Excellence & Talent Development