

**SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

TO: MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

**SUBJECT: SENATE BILL 850 OFFERING BACCALAUREATE
DEGREES AT CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

REQUESTED ACTION: INFORMATION

SUMMARY:

The State of California will have a shortfall of one million college graduates by the year 2025 if nothing is done to increase the current production of baccalaureate degree holders and 41 percent of jobs will require at least a bachelor's degree, but only 35 percent will have a college diploma. Wages are higher and unemployment rates are much lower for California college graduates, and the gap is widening.

Solano Community College believes that community colleges are an invaluable economic engine driving the nation toward renewed and sustained economic prosperity and can help fill the gaps in California's higher education system by granting bachelor's degrees in a limited number of specific areas in order to meet a growing demand for a skilled workforce.

Solano Community College District Board of Trustees supports legislation that authorizes and funds community colleges to voluntarily offer baccalaureate degrees that address critical workforce needs, meet the needs of underrepresented students, and avoids unnecessary duplication of degree programs in a region.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE:

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVAL DISAPPROVAL
 NOT REQUIRED TABLE

Jowel C. Laguerre, Ph.D.
Superintendent-President

PRESENTER'S NAME

360 Campus Lane, Suite 201
Fairfield, CA 94534

ADDRESS

707 864-7112

TELEPHONE NUMBER

Administration
ORGANIZATION

September 19, 2014

**DATE SUBMITTED TO
SUPERINTENDENT-PRESIDENT**

JOWEL C. LAGUERRE, Ph.D.
Superintendent-President

September 19, 2014
**DATE APPROVED BY
SUPERINTENDENT-PRESIDENT**

AGENDA ITEM 10.(d)
MEETING DATE October 1, 2014

**SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

TO: MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

**SUBJECT: SENATE BILL 850 OFFERING BACCALAUREATE
DEGREES AT CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

REQUESTED ACTION: REPORT

SUMMARY:

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE:

Solano Community College District Board of Trustees encourages Chancellor Brice Harris and the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges to proceed with an ongoing dialogue with the California State University and the University of California on this opportunity while also establishing collaboratively the criteria and processes for individual colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees.

**CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE**

1102 Q STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95811-6549
(916) 322-4005
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August 28, 2014

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 850 (Block) Public Postsecondary Education: Community College Districts:
Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program**

REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, I respectfully urge you to sign Senate Bill 850 by Senator Marty Block. This bill authorizes the Board of Governors, in consultation with the California State University (CSU) and the University of California (UC), to establish a baccalaureate degree pilot program.

Specifically, the pilot program would allow up to 15 participating community college districts to offer one baccalaureate degree program each to meet local workforce needs as long as it does not duplicate a baccalaureate degree program already offered by the CSU or the UC system. Participating districts shall submit plans for their program to the Chancellor's Office for review which will then be submitted to the Board of Governors for approval. In addition to the \$46 per unit community college fee, districts would charge an additional \$84 per unit fee for upper division coursework, making this program an affordable pathway toward a baccalaureate degree. Districts would be required to commence programs no later than the 2017-18 academic year and have degrees completed by the 2022-23 academic year. The Legislative Analyst's Office would conduct both an interim and final evaluation of the pilot program in order to assess its effectiveness.

California's demand for over one million bachelor degree holders in the coming decade sparked renewed interest in the addition of baccalaureate degrees to the California community college mission. The concept of allowing community colleges to confer baccalaureate degrees is not new; more than 50 community colleges across the nation operate almost 500 baccalaureate programs in 21 states.

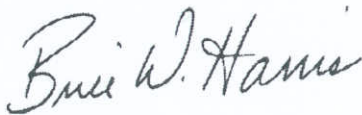
The establishment of affordable, accessible, and quality baccalaureate degree programs at community colleges is important for two primary reasons: 1) it will help the state meet its need for individuals in high demand technical disciplines which are increasingly requiring baccalaureate degrees; and 2) it will increase college participation rates and improve workforce training opportunities for local residents who are unable to relocate because of family or work commitments.

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
August 27, 2014
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We firmly believe the time is right for this proposal. SB 850 holds tremendous promise for our system to address critical workforce needs in regions of the state that are currently underserved, as well as to provide access to those seeking baccalaureate degrees who don't have other local educational options.

I thank you for your consideration and urge your signature on SB 850 (Block). If you or your staff has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 445-4434.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brice W. Harris".

Brice W. Harris
Chancellor

Cc: Senator Marty Block