

October 8, 2019

David De Alba, Presiding Judge Sacramento Superior County Superior Court
720 9th Street, Dept. 47
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Honorable De Alba,

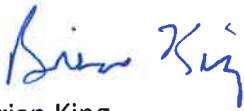
The Los Rios Community College Board of Trustees thanks the Grand Jury for its review of our academic programs and our faculty's hard work on improving graduation rates. We appreciate your acknowledgement of the commitment of the Board of Trustees, Los Rios staff and faculty towards undertaking substantial modifications to enhance our student achievement rates. We agree that Guided Pathways will increase our students' success and the early returns on the implementation of this program show that Los Rios is moving in the right direction. We agree that budgeting sufficient resources for case management/student advisors to change and augment our existing counseling services is an appropriate recommendation to assist us in ensuring the success of Guided Pathways, and we have already begun this effort by investing in new technology tools to help students navigate the degree planning process. We also agree that Los Rios should work to enhance the number and scope of online courses offered, and in fact, this is one of Los Rios's top strategic priorities for the next year. Finally, the Board agrees that streamlining our program establishment process, while ensuring the integrity and rigor of those programs, is a positive recommendation.

The Board has considered and appreciates the recommendation that it consider changing its current funding model that places 80% of new revenues in the bucket for compensation. While we constantly evaluate our funding model to ensure it is meeting our students' needs, we are not inclined to make such a change because this fiscal approach has led to extraordinary fiscal stability for Los Rios in even the most volatile of economic times. That stability has led to significant financial flexibility for Los Rios even as others around the state struggle to find the resources to invest in innovations that can lead to better student outcomes. It is incumbent on Los Rios to use that flexibility to address the real and urgent issues facing our students, some of which have been identified by the Grand Jury in this report. This formula has also helped to engender trust and a productive relationship with our collective bargaining partners as we work collaboratively to address issues facing our students. In short, the 80% funding model is an asset in these efforts, not a hindrance. We also continue to advocate for additional resources for all community colleges in the state of California.

The Los Rios Board of Trustees is grateful to the Grand Jury for its thorough and thoughtful review of the work underway to improve student success at our colleges, and for the recommendations regarding ways to expedite and improve upon those efforts. On those points of agreement noted above, among others outlined in Los Rios's Strategic Plan, the Board is committed to working towards those ends with the single-minded intent of improving the success for our all of our students and thus improving the community in which we all live and work.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at kingb@losrios.edu or (916) 568-3021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian King". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Brian King,
Chancellor and Secretary to the Board of Trustees

cc: Becky Castaneda, Grand Jury Coordinator
castanb@saccourt.com