

**Proclaim April 17, 2011 as Hands Across California Day**

The California Community College system is the largest higher education system in the nation. Throughout the state of California there are 112 community colleges which offer 175 degree and certificate programs to over 2.8 millions students per year. The population of the California Community Colleges accounts for 24% of all community college students nationwide. In addition to its degree and certificate programs, the California Community Colleges provide educational and workforce training opportunities to students from a variety of backgrounds. The California Community Colleges are a cost-effective alternative for students who cannot afford to attend a four-year university and an important feeder into the California State University (CSU) and the University of California (UC) systems. Approximately 60% of graduates from the CSU schools and 30% of graduates from the UC schools transferred from a California Community College.

California Community Colleges are an investment in students as well as in the state's economy. It is estimated that students with a higher education earn 86% more in wages upon completion of a degree program. Moreover, the state's investment in community colleges returns a 300% net per student to the state's economy and a

MOTION

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**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS**  
**APRIL 12, 2011**  
**PAGE 2**

1,200% increase in California's business income and employee wages. California Community Colleges produce our state's firefighters, law enforcement officers, and emergency medical technicians. Over 50% of California veterans receiving GI educational benefits attend a community college. The health of our citizens is ensured by the 70% of nurses who received their education from a California Community College.

However, despite the benefits of the California Community College system, many students struggle to pay for educational costs and choose to withdraw from community colleges. Almost 90% of full-time students receive financial aid to further their education.

On April 17, 2011, supporters of the California Community Colleges will join an estimated 1 million people from Northern to Southern California to create a human line spanning the majority of the 112 California Community Colleges. This effort to raise awareness and resources for the California Community Colleges will occur between the hours of 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Individuals who wish to participate are encouraged to visit [www.handsacrosscalifornia.org](http://www.handsacrosscalifornia.org).

**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

Proclaim April 17, 2011 as Hands Across California Day throughout the County of Los Angeles and encourage all Los Angeles County residents and businesses to engage in support and advocacy efforts for community colleges throughout the County.

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