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for California Community Colleges

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March 31, 2015

Assemblymember Luis Alejo  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0030

**Subject: AB 490 (Alejo), as of 3/26/15**  
**Position: Support**

Dear Assemblymember Alejo:

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges wishes to express our support for AB 490 (Alejo as of March 26, 2015), which would restore funding for the Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) and the Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE) in California's community colleges.

EOPS provides vital services for students on community college campuses, including academic monitoring, counseling, specialized transitions to transfer and employment assistance, and workshops designed to teach study skills, time-management, and money-management. CARE programs add to these services through supplemental grants and allowances to pay for related educational expenses such as child care, transportation, textbooks and supplies that are not offered by other resources. These programs help colleges to strengthen their retention, persistence, graduation, and transfer rates, thus providing a very positive return on investment for the State of California.

The passage of AB 490 would restore \$32 million dollars for EOPS and \$8 million dollars for CARE. These programs were cut by 40% in the 2008-2009 budget year and have not regained their previous funding levels. The restoration of funding to these programs will provide more disadvantaged students with the ability to succeed both academically and professionally.

**For these reasons, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges supports Assembly Bill 490 (Alejo as of March 26, 2015).** Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

David W. Morse  
President, Academic Senate for California Community Colleges

pc: Assemblymember Jose Medina  
Members, Assembly Higher Education Committee