

**CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE**

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March 15, 2013

Dr. Andrew C. Jones, Chancellor
Coast Community College District
1370 Adams Ave.
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Dear Chancellor Jones:

Thank you again for your letter of February 21, 2013 appealing the decision by Vice Chancellor Russell to deny the Coastline Community College Learning First Program on the basis of the transference of the cost of the program from the contracting party to the students.

In his letter of denial Dr. Russell stated that we believe Education Code Section 78021 does not allow differential fees to be charged students, and after my careful review of this situation I agree with his finding. Let me say that I understand your motivation to create this innovative approach in association with some extremely impressive partners. My concerns, and those of Vice Chancellor Russell, are not with the content of the program, but rather the fact that this group of students must pay considerably more for their education. Not only do I believe that the law does not allow for this disparate fee structure, but I further feel this approach undermines our historically open-access environment based on low fees for all Californians regardless of their economic background.

I want to further assure you that my denial of your appeal was made only after many hours of consideration within the Chancellor's Office by numerous members of the leadership team. We did not take your request lightly, and frankly never like to find ourselves in the position of telling our colleges they cannot do something that they obviously feel is in the best interest of their students. However, for many years we have advocated for a consistent policy of modest and predictable fee adjustments so that our students and their families can plan for their educational expenses. The Coastline proposal is not the first to seek differential fees and our approach to this policy question has been consistent.

I have enclosed for your information an open letter I plan to present to the California Community College CEO Board next week. As you will see in the letter, I am taking a consistent and firm stand on this issue with all our colleagues.

Thank you again Andrew, for your patience in allowing us to carefully consider your request, and please be assured that our denial of your request is in no way a question on the intentions of the college or the quality of your academic programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Brice W. Harris'.

Brice W. Harris
Chancellor