



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

TOM TORLAKSON

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

California Health Sciences University
120 N. Clovis Avenue,
Clovis, CA 93612

January 20th, 2016

Dear President Dunn,

Please accept this letter of support to accompany your application to the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation.

The San Joaquin Valley has a severe shortage of primary care physicians and historically our students have had to leave our community to attend medical school and don't return to practice here.

As State Superintendent, I have encouraged nearly 1.5 Billion dollars of state investment in Career Pathways Initiatives in schools across the state. I believe firmly that students need to see their futures, and get hands on experience in classrooms that inspire them to continue their post-secondary education. The California Health Sciences University is a crucial asset to the community, but could also support K-12 students who desperately need to see education and career opportunities in their local communities.

With their vision to recruit and retain local students to help remedy the shortage of health care providers in Central California, California Health Sciences University (CHSU) has provided our community with greater access to higher education, health care and stimulated the local economy.

They have demonstrated their commitment to the Valley by admitting approximately 60% of their pharmacy students from the region so that their 160 students currently enrolled are more likely to stay and practice locally.

The opening of a CHSU College of Osteopathic Medicine might be the only opportunity that many of our students – especially those in underserved areas – have to attend medical school due to affordability, qualifications, or cultural constraints preventing them from leaving the area.

Having a medical school offered in our region - especially by an institution whose mission is to attract and retain students from this area – would be a tremendous opportunity to train people who know the Valley to provide care for our unique population.

We look forward to seeing the increase in Valley students choosing to become doctors and getting admitting into the CSHU College of Osteopathic Medicine in the future!

Feel free to contact me if you need more information. You can do so through Briana Mullen, Policy Advisor to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, by email at Bmullen@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Tom Torlakson

TT:bm