



## The California State University

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

BAKERSFIELD

January 7, 2026

CHANNEL ISLANDS

The Honorable Mike Fong  
Chair, Assembly Higher Education Committee  
1021 N Street, Room 173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

DOMINGUEZ HILLS

EAST BAY

RE: **Assembly Bill 664 (Alvarez)** Community Colleges: Baccalaureate Degree Program: Southwestern Community College District. (As Amended on January 5, 2026)

**CSU Position:** Oppose

FULLERTON

Dear Chair Fong,

HUMBOLDT

LONG BEACH

LOS ANGELES

MARITIME ACADEMY

MONTEREY BAY

NORTHRIDGE

POMONA

SACRAMENTO

SAN BERNARDINO

SAN DIEGO

SAN FRANCISCO

SAN JOSÉ

SAN LUIS OBISPO

SAN MARCOS

SONOMA

STANISLAUS

The California State University (CSU) has respectfully adopted an oppose position on Assembly Bill 664 by Assemblymember David Alvarez, a measure that would allow Southwestern Community College District to offer four baccalaureate degree programs.

State law has authorized, with the passage of Assembly Bill 927 (Medina), that the California Community Colleges (CCC) may establish up to 30 baccalaureate degree programs per academic year, provided that the program or program curricula is not already offered by the CSU or University of California (UC). AB 927 requires the CCC to consult with and seek feedback from the CSU, UC, and the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities on proposed baccalaureate degree programs to identify and prevent duplication, and to provide documentation of the collaborative approaches these institutions have taken to meet regional workforce needs. This process has led to the creation of more than 50 baccalaureate degree programs offered at community colleges across the state.

As proposed, AB 664 would allow Southwestern Community College District to circumvent the consultation and feedback required by state law and offer up to four undefined baccalaureate degree programs. More broadly, AB 664 creates a precedent for other community college districts to do the exact same thing. This broad authority raises significant concerns of unfettered duplication of existing baccalaureate degree programs and the inefficient use of state resources.

Last year, the Governor vetoed a similar bill that would have authorized 10 community college districts to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, stating in part: *"In recent years, both the CCC and the CSU have been authorized to offer independent programs outside of their traditional roles, provided they do not duplicate degree offerings of other public segments. I encourage the CCC system to focus on implementing this expanded authority and to ensure that it can continue to make progress on the unique and vital role the CCC plays in serving its students and the state. Given these significant changes, a pause*

*should be maintained to understand their full impact before additional authorities are granted.”*

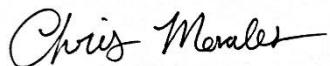
The CSU supports the author's intent to expand access to higher education in South San Diego County and the City of Chula Vista. In the past year, San Diego State University and California State University San Marcos have worked to address the region's workforce needs as identified by Southwestern College through the development of various “2+2” programs. This has included work toward establishing in-person baccalaureate degree programs in nursing, psychology, business administration, computer information systems and cyber security at Southwestern College's campus in Chula Vista.

However, AB 664 would undermine the collaboration at the heart of these partnerships. We encourage Southwestern Community College District to pursue their baccalaureate degree proposals through the AB 927 process that is prescribed in state law. As noted earlier, there have been 52 baccalaureate degree programs in community colleges created throughout the state. If there are problems with the AB 927 process, we welcome conversations on how to improve, rather than circumvent, this process, if insufficient to meet the region's workforce needs. The CSU is willing to engage in conversations that streamline the AB 927 process to provide better outcomes to the CSU, UC and community colleges.

We are committed to strengthening and expanding academic partnerships in the South San Diego County, as well as the rest of the state. We look forward to engaging in the South County Higher Education Planning Task Force established last year by Assembly Bill 662. AB 662 requires a number of education institutions, including the CSU and Southwestern College, to further identify ways in which we can expand access to higher education through regional partnerships.

For these reasons, the CSU must oppose AB 664 and respectfully requests a “no” vote on AB 664. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [cmorales@calstate.edu](mailto:cmorales@calstate.edu) or (916) 445-5983.

Sincerely,



Christopher Morales  
Senior Legislative Advocate  
Advocacy and State Relations

cc: Assemblymember David Alvarez  
Members, Assembly Higher Education Committee  
Kevin Powers, Principal Consultant, Assembly Higher Education Committee  
Lindsay Mitchell, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus  
Nichole Muñoz-Murillo, Governor's Office  
Livia Shmavonian, Governor's Office  
Andrew Medina, Senate President pro Tem's Office  
Mónica Henestroza, Assembly Speaker's Office