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January 8, 2026

The Honorable Mike Fong
Chair, Assembly Higher Education Committee
1020 N St, Room 173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 664 (Alvarez), as amended on January 5, 2026
Scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Higher Education Committee on January 13, 2026
Position: OPPOSE

Dear Chair Fong:

The University of California (UC) must respectfully oppose AB 664 (Alvarez), which authorizes the Southwestern Community College District to offer up to four baccalaureate degree programs.

The California Master Plan on Higher Education establishes the functions of each public higher education segment. Under the Plan, the California Community Colleges (CCCs) have an open admission policy with responsibility over lower division undergraduate courses and offer associate's degree programs, the California State Universities (CSU) offer bachelor's and master's degree programs, and UC maintains the exclusive authority to offer doctoral degrees. Over the years, legislation has been enacted to change these responsibilities.

Existing law provides an avenue for community college districts to submit proposals to establish up to 30 baccalaureate degree programs each year. UC, CSU, and the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU) review each proposal and may object to any proposal that duplicates any existing program at UC and CSU.

AB 664 circumvents this process by authorizing Southwestern Community College District to establish additional baccalaureate degree programs without regard to existing law requirements related to degree duplication and whether the districts have the expertise, resources, and student interest in the program. For these reasons, UC must respectfully oppose AB 664.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions about the University's position on AB 664, please contact me at Jessica.Duong@ucop.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica Duong".

Jessica Duong
Legislative Director

cc: Vice Chair and Members, Assembly Higher Education Committee
Assemblymember David Alvarez
President James B. Milliken