



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 13, 2018

Contact: Amy Hines-Shaikh
Director, Reclaim Higher Education Coalition
Tel: (562) 201-9243

UNIVERSITY
PROFESSIONAL
AND TECHNICAL
EMPLOYEES

CWA Local 9119
AFL-CIO

■
representing
employees at the
University of
California

&

part-time faculty
at the Community
Colleges of Butte,
Mt. San Jacinto, &
College of the Sequoias

■
2855 Telegraph Ave
Suite 310
Berkeley, CA
94705

phone (510) 704-8783
fax (510) 704-8065
info@upte-cwa.org

■
www.upte.org

A Return to Tuition Free College For All Can Happen with the \$66 Fix *"\$66 Fix" Can Make Higher Ed Accessible to All – And Boost Funding to K-12 Education*

SACRAMENTO, CA - Just as the University of California and California State University consider tuition hikes, the Reclaim CA Higher Education Coalition of unions, student groups, faculty associations, and progressive organizations releases an updated, tangible, plan to return to quality tuition-free public colleges and universities for all. *The \$66 Fix: Reclaiming California's Master Plan for Higher Education* envisions education as a public good instead of the current system that has failed California's people, economy, and future prospects; the plan now features \$5.68 billion in additional funding for K-12 schools to ensure students are well prepared and equipped for higher education.

The state's privatization experiment has failed. California students graduated with over \$12 billion in debt since 2004. Tuition has grown from 5% of median family income to 20% in the past 30 years. California trails the nation in K-12 per student spending. Students cannot graduate in a timely manner due to deep cuts in faculty positions, resulting in ballooning class sizes. As our population grows, seats for in-state students shrink or stay the same. In 1960 California led the world by providing free higher education to all and the state's economy prospered as a result. The \$66 Fix funds a return to tuition-free public higher education for all, restoring educational quality, additional seats for in-state students, and support for K-12 schools. Eliminating tuition would allow current financial aid to assist students in affording expensive, essential, non-tuition costs such as housing and food. 50% of taxpayers will pay \$66 a year, or less, in new taxes to fund this plan.

"We look forward to working with state legislators and the Governor to reaffirm the Master Plan with full funding and sufficient state investment as outlined in the \$66 Fix," said Amy Hines-Shaikh, Director of Reclaim CA Higher Education Coalition and a co-author of the policy paper.

Kristin Hsu, External Vice President of the Associated Students of UC Santa Barbara and UC Student Association Board member, said "The State has failed on its promise of an affordable, quality, and accessible education for all California families and students. Students can't accept the status quo. We demand reimagining higher education as a right for all."

The \$66 Fix would also invest greatly in schools so that students can earn a top-quality education in a timely manner, said Jonathan Abboud, a co-author and elected Community College Trustee. "Breaking down the barriers to higher education is a crucial step to ensuring a better future for all Californians and one without the burdens of student debt."

###

We are the Reclaim CA Higher Education Coalition. Our mission is to reclaim the Donahoe Act of 1960, otherwise known as California's Master Plan for Higher Education. We advocate for a return to its vision of affordable, accessible, quality public higher education for all Californians. In our advocacy, we include all stakeholders, such as students, parents, workers, unions, community groups, faith leaders, educational organizations, elected representatives, and the faculty, staff, and administrators from the higher education systems: the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California.