

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

As representatives of [Los Medanos College Associated Students \(LMCAS\)](#), we are writing to urge you to sign AB 1400 into law. AB 1400, like SB 895 last year, has overwhelming support of both houses in the legislature.

Students in California have a right to affordable and equitable access to higher education, including Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degrees. The SSCCC has long supported offering baccalaureate degrees in the California Community Colleges (CCC), and now with an imminent shortage of nurses, especially in underserved regions where students are place-bound and have little access to a university, the CCC serving such regions must be authorized to offer BSN degrees—bringing college to students. The cost to students for a community college BSN would run about \$10,000, whereas the average costs of a BSN degree at a California State University (CSU), University of California (UC), or private institution run about \$34,000, \$72,000, and more than \$127,000, respectively. Furthermore, baccalaureate degree graduates from CCC increase their annual salaries by an average of \$28,000.

As LMCAS representatives, we understand that admission to nursing programs is amongst the most impacted across California. Students who seek a nursing program are often rejected, not because of eligibility, but because programs have limited spaces and resources. This is demoralizing and discouraging for students. How can we meet the nursing shortage if there aren't enough nursing programs to fill the demand?

By signing Bill 1400, BSN programs at community colleges will create more accessibility to local programs and bring opportunities for incoming students. In addition, schools will be able to partner with clinics and hospitals to support our communities. This will lead to more students staying locally to make a direct impact and inspire the next generation of future health care workers.

Many community college students in underserved and under-resourced regions play an essential role in their families, helping to care for children and older family members, either directly or through contributing to the household income. Often there is no CSU or UC nearby, and in some areas the nearby CSU or UC does not admit very many local students. The CCC can fill the gaps, increase access to BSN degrees, and provide an opportunity for local students to stay local—for both college and post-graduation employment. Furthermore, if the CCC do not provide BSN degrees where access to a CSU or UC is limited, the private institutions, including for-profit institutions, will add insurmountable financial burdens to families that are already struggling to attain a living wage.

Let's ensure we are bringing college to all Californians so that they have access to high-quality BSN degrees, including those in communities not served by CSU and UC campuses. I ask you to support students and sign AB 1400.

Sincerely,

Los Medanos College Associated Students

A stylized, cursive handwritten signature in black ink.

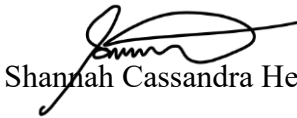
Ijeoma Opara

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Maria Pelea

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Natalya Marroquin

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Shannah Cassandra Hermano

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Tatiana Rodriguez