

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

BRICE W. HARRIS, CHANCELLOR

**CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES  
CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE**

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**VIA EMAIL  
AA-1410**

**Date:** October 22, 2014

**To:** Chief Executive Officers  
Chief Instructional Officers

**From:** Pamela D. Walker  
Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs

**Subject:** Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program Certification of Interest

On September 28, 2014, California Governor Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 850 (Block) authorizing up to 15 California community college districts to offer a single Baccalaureate degree on a pilot basis. The Board of Governors (BOG) of the California Community Colleges (CCC) is charged with developing a process for the selection of those pilot colleges, along with other aspects of implementing the initiative. The establishment of affordable, accessible, and quality Baccalaureate degrees at community colleges is important for two primary reasons: 1) to assist the state in meeting the need for individuals in high demand technical disciplines which are increasingly requiring baccalaureate degrees; and 2) to increase college participation rates and improve workforce training opportunities for local residents who are unable to relocate because of family or work commitments.

The Chancellor's Office is soliciting interest in participating in the Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program. This program would meet local unmet workforce needs as long as it does not duplicate a Baccalaureate degree program already offered by the California State University or the University of California systems. Participation is limited to one degree per community college district. These programs will commence no later than the 2017-18 academic year with a completion date by 2022-23. Additionally, each Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program will be developed using the district's current financial resources.

To inform the policy development of the CCC Baccalaureate Initiative, the Chancellor's Office brought to Consultation Council a draft Request for Proposal (RFP) outline and a proposed implementation timeline. At the November BOG meeting, Chancellor Brice Harris will recommend a process for identifying and selecting the 15 pilot colleges, including a timeline and a RFP. The RFP will only be sent to those CCCs that have submitted their Certification of Intent.

**ACTION/DATE REQUESTED:** Please submit the attached Certification of Interest form, to confirm interest in participating in the Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program by **Wednesday, November 12, 2014**, and send to:

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office  
Kathy Carroll/Academic Affairs Division  
SB 850 Baccalaureate Degree  
1102 Q Street, Suite 4554  
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