Student Success and Completion Initiatives, $38,000,000

The 2015/16 support budget includes $38 million for a variety of efforts and strategies to close achievement gaps and facilitate student success and degree completion.

These funds will be used in six initiative areas:

1. **Tenure-track Faculty Hiring** – $11 million for campuses to hire tenure-track faculty and continue reversing the declining ratio of tenured and tenure-track faculty to lecturers, as well as to improve student/faculty ratios. These funds would augment state funds and tuition fee revenue related to new enrollment and savings from retiring faculty, to enable campuses to hire more tenured and tenure-track faculty systemwide. More faculty, added to current faculty numbers, mean more sections of high-demand courses taught and more faculty mentoring/ advising of students.

2. **Enhanced Advising** – $7 million, with $4 million to hire more professional staff advisors systemwide, and $3 million to leverage the work already underway with various e-advising technologies that provide clear and accurate "real time" information for students and advisors related to graduation and major requirements and the efficient scheduling of classes.

3. **Augment Bottleneck Solutions Initiative** – $1.5 million to expand the initiative to $11.5 million. The added funding would support more online concurrent enrollment courses.

4. **Student Preparation** – $5 million augmentation to help incoming freshmen attain college readiness before arriving on CSU campuses.

5. **High-Impact Practices for Student Retention** – $9 million to "scale up" a wide range of successful "high impact" practices, including service learning projects, undergraduate participation in applied research, first-year learning communities (a cohort or shared academic focus for groups of first-year students), and peer mentoring (upper division students mentoring lower division students).

6. **Data-Driven Decision Making** – $4.5 million for the Data Dashboard, a project currently underway at the CSU to provide all 23 campuses with the type of data they need to make important decisions related to time to degree and term-to-term retention. Growth and wide-spread adoption of the use of data, and the mechanism to report and display this data in an accessible way for faculty and staff, will dramatically improve decision-making at the campuses and the system and improve overall effectiveness and efficiency of the university's programs. CSU campuses will also use this data to give faculty and staff a basis upon which to make decisions about graduation pathways and measure the success of academic and student success programs including high impact practices.

These six areas of funding are directed at improving student success and completion. Improvements in graduation rates and the number of successful degree completions at the CSU have the potential for maximum effect across the state.