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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **PRESS STATEMENT**

### **Statement from CSSA President David M. Lopez on Governor Brown's Proposed 2017/18 State Budget**

**SACRAMENTO, CA** – While CSSA appreciates Governor Brown's modest restoration to previous funding cuts, the proposed budget is \$167.7 million less than what the California State University (CSU) system needs to meet the multiple obligations placed on it by our state leaders. Additionally, students face the first potential tuition increase in six years. Any shortfall in funding by the state to the CSU means the financial responsibility for these obligations shifts permanently to students through a tuition increase.

"Governor Brown's budget does not do enough to protect current and future students' access to an affordable and quality education at the CSU," said David Lopez, CSSA President and student at Cal State East Bay. "The state needs to do more to ensure that students do not bear the financial burden of the escalating costs of pursuing a college degree, some of which are the product of external pressures placed on the system."

In 2015, the CSU received its first fully funded budget in nearly a decade. This budget enabled the system to enroll 10,000 additional students who would have otherwise been denied, target resources to effective graduation improvement programs, and put a small dent in a nearly \$2 billion backlog of aging and unsafe classrooms and buildings. When the state invests in CSU students, we have seen firsthand the benefits yielded to the state.

We hope the Governor's Office will work with CSSA and the CSU to create a budget that protects the priorities of our entire system, and ensures that today's students are afforded the same opportunity to an affordable, accessible, and quality public higher education as previous generations. Doing so will ensure that California and its citizens will be able to face the many challenges facing our great state and continue to thrive for decades to come.

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#### **About CSSA**

CSSA serves California State University students for student interests, and engages students in public higher education policy making.

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