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"My Letter to Governor Newsom during COVID-19"

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December 7, 2020

Camelia Fowler
[REDACTED]

Governor Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

My name is Camelia Fowler and I write this letter to you with deep concern and high anxiety. I am an employee of the CSU system. I am an Administrative/Analyst Specialist at the San Bernardino campus. I am also a proud alum of the campus, earning my undergraduate degree in 2012 and my master's degree in 2015. I have been a part of the campus community in a professional capacity for about 12 years now, enduring furloughs and budget concerns throughout my tenure on campus. I felt an urgency to write this letter to you because while the CSU has faced budget concerns in the past, the present budget concerns are discouraging and have caused great anguish across the CSU system, the San Bernardino campus, and to me personally.

I will forever be grateful to the CSU: without the CSU, I would not have health insurance. I am the survivor of two brain surgeries, and without health insurance provided by the CSU, I am confident I would have paid out-of-pocket for the procedures. Additionally, it's imperative I get MRIs annually to monitor any signs of brain tumor growth. With budget cuts to the CSU, I am concerned my health may be affected. With that said, PLEASE restore cuts to the CSU and provide funding that each campus needs to operate.

Additionally, about 7 of my colleagues have been separated from campus and many others have been reassigned. I received the news today, December 7, that I have been reassigned too. While I am still grateful for employment, I am heartbroken that I will leave behind the department I was instrumental in growing. I am also disappointed that I will not be able to regularly engage with the students I have built relationships with over the years, as the reassignment has changed my role on campus. With that said, PLEASE restore cuts to the CSU and provide funding that each campus needs to operate.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I appreciate the opportunity to let my concerns be heard. I look forward to receiving your response.

Warmly,

Camelia Fowler

Camelia Fowler, MBA
CSU San Bernardino

Cc: Tomás Morales, CSU San Bernardino President