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**Journalism Association of Community Colleges**  
c/o CNPA Services Inc.  
2701 K St.  
Sacramento CA 95816-5131

July 24, 2020

Dear Dr. Soon-Shiong, Mr. Pearlstine, and other members of the Los Angeles Times leadership team,

Journalism faculty members of the Journalism Association of Community Colleges are writing this letter in support of a recent letter sent to you from our journalism colleagues in the California State Universities regarding the lack of representation of local graduates in internships and fellowships in your newsroom.

As the largest community college system in the country, the 116 campuses of the California Community College system transfer upwards of 80,000 students to California state universities. Their students are our students.

The diverse population of our student bodies reflects the true demographics of our communities. As the LA Times looks to grow its newsroom to be more diverse and representative of its audience, it should look to the local community colleges and Cal State Universities that are training and developing these hard-working, young and diverse professionals.

While populations at the community colleges are often considered made up solely of students just out of high school, a large portion of our students are working professionals, skill builders, veterans, etc. Many of our students have already obtained a bachelor's degree and are looking to build their skills as journalists and are seeking opportunities in the profession. Our concerns and requests are similar to those of the CSU faculty.

Over the years we have seen internship programs at the LA Times change as different leadership took charge of the paper. The LA Times once worked with JACC and provided scholarships for community college journalism students, and we were working on developing more opportunities for the LA Times to connect with journalism students at the community colleges. However, with new leadership came new programs and the hiring pools moved further away from connecting with the local colleges.

Like our CSU colleagues, we would like to see:

- **An effective Metpro Program:** One that includes dedicated spots for CSU students (and qualified community college students).
- **More inclusive internships:** Internship programs that consider California journalism students (including qualified community college students).
- **Campus visits and organized field trips.** In addition to the CSU faculty request, the community college faculty would like visits from the LA Times to explain their internships and the Metpro program. We also recommend hosting additional on-site field trips for community college journalism programs.

- **The creation of a College Insider.** We agree with the CSU faculty that a journalism training and collaborative reporting program should be created, specifically targeting Southern California college students. **However, we suggest that it also be inclusive of the community colleges.** More than 40 community colleges across the state have journalism programs, which allows for a greater opportunity for the LA Times to include content and expand its reach.

We want to join our voices with the CSUs for the benefit of our students and to help the LA Times better connect and reflect its audience. We all agree that quality journalism is essential, and as we prepare journalists for successful careers, we hope that we can work together to continue to build and grow.

Sincerely,

Cecilia Deck,  
President, Journalism Association of Community Colleges  
Journalism Department Chair  
De Anza College

Jay Seidel, journalism faculty, Fullerton College  
Cindy McGrath, journalism faculty, Los Medanos College  
Judy Menezes, journalism faculty, College of the Sequoias  
Nancy Kaplan-Biegel, journalism faculty, Skyline College  
Tracie Savage, journalism faculty, Pierce College  
Sharyn Obsatz, Journalism/Media Studies Professor, Santa Monica College  
Tara Cuslidge-Staiano, journalism faculty, San Joaquin Delta College  
Kathleen Schock, journalism faculty, Fresno City College  
Jill Connelly, Department Chair, Media Arts, Pierce College  
Kate McLaughlin, journalism faculty, El Camino College  
Charleen Earley, Journalism Professor, Foothill College & Diablo Valley College  
Patrick Schmiedt, journalism faculty, Instructor, Citrus College  
Jen Vernon, PhD, Communication Studies Professor, Sierra College  
Jessica Langlois, Assistant Professor of Journalism, Fullerton College  
Anne Belden, journalism faculty, Santa Rosa Junior College  
Juan Gonzalez, journalism faculty, City College of San Francisco  
Wendy Carrera, journalism faculty, Rio Hondo College  
Toni Albertson, journalism faculty, Mount San Antonio College  
Max Branscomb, journalism faculty, Southwestern College  
Patrick McKean, journalism faculty, Long Beach City College  
Rich Cameron, journalism faculty, Cerritos College, emeritus  
Rachel Leibrock, journalism faculty, American River College  
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