COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION



The Official Newspaper of the Community College Association/CTA-NEA

Volume 55 Number 4 **JUNE 2020**

Faculty Share Concerns, Ideas With Chancellor Oakley During Town Hall

Distance Learning, Safe In-Person Instruction, **Resources and Technology Were Hot Topics**

TOWN HALL POLL RESULTS

1. Have you been certified for distance learning by your college?

59% 41% SAID NO SAID YES

2. Has your college provided additional access to necessary technology for remote learning during COVID-19?

74% 26% SAID NO SAID YES

3. What additional tools do you need to successfully teach online?

> **43%** RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS 21% TECHNOLOGY **17%** professional development **10%** TRANSFERABILITY OF DE CERT 8% OPPORTUNITY TO GET CERT

4. Districts are making local decisions to ensure continuity during summer and fall. Please select the option that represents your college:

89% REMOTE SUMMER/FALL **10%** UNKNOWN

1% IN-PERSON SUMMER/FALL

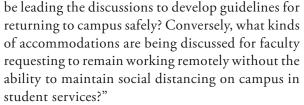
5. On a scale of 1-5 (5 being safe and 1 being not safe), how safe would you feel to provide in-person instruction/support if social distancing is still required? ON MAY 28, SOME 300 FACULTY attended a virtual town hall meeting called "Supporting Faculty During COVID-19 and the State Recovery," and they took the opportunity to share opinions on topics such as certification for distance learning and safety issues involved in providing in-person instruction. Hosted by the Chancellor's Office and CCA, the event's highlights included hearing the perspectives of college students.

Danny Thirakul, president of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges, said, "Just because you have a cookbook doesn't make you a chef. Just because you've got the book doesn't make you a teacher." He shared student concerns and learning needs. "We want to make sure that people who are teaching us are properly trained and they have resources, so we can have the best education possible. On the other

side, we need the same kind of train-

ing and the same kind of resources and technology in order to be successful as a student. Faculty and students essentially are in the same boat."

The intent of the town hall, said CCA President Eric Kaljumägi, was for Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley to "hear from faculty and staff about what we've been facing on the ground." In opening remarks, Oakley said, "We're gathering the best thinking and the best information, from state offices, health department, and we're considering the K-12 level, because we know what happens in K-12 impacts community colleges." Oakley noted work by faculty "has been better than any other education system," and said his office was looking forward to connecting, engaging and collaborating with local partners to safely open when the time comes. He said reopening in phases will be at the discretion of local health officials. Throughout the town hall, polls were taken to assess participants' experiences with issues such as colleges soliciting input from faculty and classified staff regarding plans for the fall semester, certification for distance learning, access to necessary technology for remote learning, and expectations and safety issues regarding in-person instruction (left). As expected, reopening was a hot topic, with one participant asking in the chat: "Once we have been given the direction to return to campus, who will



"Understood, thank you," Oakley responded. "My counterpoint would be to ask: Would it not be eminently prudent to INCLUDE, on purpose,

> a doctor or epidemiologist onto the policymaking committees for each campus in order to interpret local public health recommendations correctly with regard to EACH college campus, which surely have different needs? I would venture that each college DOES likely have a medical doctor or epidemiologist — someone already employed at the college whose inclusion and input would be valuable as these groups meet to discuss this all-im-

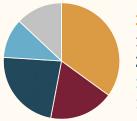
portant issue. I might suggest that someone like that be identified at each college, and asked to join these committees temporarily during the duration of the public health crisis. Something to consider, perhaps."

In addition to Oakley and Kaljumägi, participants heard from a panel of state leaders, including:

• California Federation of Teachers (CFT) -Jim Mahler



Student Senate President Danny Thirakul



35% 1 - NOT AT ALL SAFE **18%** 2 - NOT VERY SAFE **23%** 3 - SOMEWHAT SAFE **11%** 4 - VERY SAFE **13%** 5 - EXTREMELY SAFE

6. What is your preferred method for how your district/college can solicit input from faculty/classified staff regarding plans for the fall semester?

49% LOCAL GOV PROCESS **20%** DEPT CHAIR ENGAGEMENT **17%** CAMPUS-WIDE SURVEY **14%** PERSONAL EMAIL



- California Community College Independents (CCCI) – Jeffrey Michels
- California School Employees Association (CSEA) – Bill Rawlings
- Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) – John Stanskas
- Faculty Association of California Community Colleges (FACCC) – Debbie Klein

Note: Their comments can be read in an expanded article at <u>cta.org/educator</u> and <u>cca4us.org</u>.

"We will continue conversations and appreciate the partnership that has emerged," Vice Chancellor Lizette Navarette noted. "One key piece we had as a takeaway is: Together we have a lot of efficacy to ensure we can secure the resources to continue supporting our students and faculty, distance education, and eventually safely reopening our campuses."

1

What CCA Is **Doing in This New** Environment

my article for the

March Advocate, I

was devoting much

of my time to moni-

toring statewide in-

advocating for com-

building

groups,

colleges,

with

formation,

statewide

munity

relationships

By CCA President Eric Kaljumägi



CCA President Eric Kaljumägi

and planning future events. Then COVID-19 spread in California, and my calendar changed from in-person meetings to meetings entirely on Webex and Zoom. I retrieved my daughter from her college dorm, set up my laptop in my garage, and went back to work.

The amount of information I am monitoring has significantly increased these past months. One service CCA provides to members is monitoring information about higher education, including reports from the Chancellor's Office, the Board of Governors, the Legislature and the governor. Between CTA staff, VP Randa Wahbe and myself, most of that flood of information is read and flagged for response or follow-up. We also follow the Chancellor's Office and CTA's internal newsfeeds to see what is being reported about community colleges.

Some information is then discussed with other groups. The Council of Faculty Organizations (CoFO) provides insight on legislators and advocacy groups that are working on positions of interest to us. In April, most of CoFO's members signed a letter asking for Student Centered Funding Formula funds to be focused in "base" and "supplemental" allocations rather than in the "performance" area. CoFO is preparing another letter to the Legislature with our recommendations for the governor's May budget revision. We joined the Chancellor's Office in an April letter on

WHEN I WROTE mented remote learning. Whether speaking to college presidents, legislative aides or CTA Board members, we ensure that the issues facing community college faculty are expressed and heard.

> I'm learning how online CCA events might be possible in the future. To be sure, there's a networking and relationship-building component of our conferences that is difficult to reproduce online, but much of the content of our conference sessions can be expressed via webinars. CTA and NEA have scheduled all their major events through July online, including June State Council, NEA Representative Assembly, the Presidents Conference, and Summer Institute. However, the October State Council and the Region II Leadership Conference are scheduled to be in person, at least for now. CCA is still planning our fall conference for Oct. 9-11 in San Jose, but we are simultaneously working on a backup plan for a virtual conference if required. Likewise, regional events that we had to postpone from spring are being revised so that they can take place in the fall, in person or otherwise. Virus or no virus, we continue to press forward with our mission to serve you.

As we enter summer, the usual slowdown of change will probably not occur this year. I expect the Legislature to debate the state budget into at least August, and as the chancellor's emergency powers expire on Sept. 13, I anticipate a flurry of activity just before the fall semester begins.

"CCA WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR, DISCUSS, AND ADVOCATE ON YOUR BEHALF."

I thank you for your remarkable work in teaching remotely these past few months, and wish you calmness and health as you navigate what may continue to be a remote teaching experience for summer and fall. Please keep me informed about what is happening at your college by emailing me at president@cca4us.org. The better I understand your situation, the better I can advocate on your behalf.

ADVOCATE

The Community College Association has become one of the most powerful voices for community college faculty, striving to improve teaching conditions and the quality of the community college system through collective bargaining, lobbying and representation activities.

CCA is an affiliate of the California Teachers Association and the National Education Association.

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The CCA Advocate is published by the Community College Association and the Communications Department of the California Teachers Association, 1705 Murchison Drive, Burlingame, CA 94010, 650-697-1400. Publication of advertising in CCA Advocate does not indicate CCA or CTA approval of advertised product or any of the companies who purchase advertising.

shared budget priorities.

CTA's legislative advocates, VP Wahbe, CTA Director DeWayne Sheaffer and I have provided significant input on community college needs and processes. We've given our perspective on how to reopen community colleges, demanded protective supplies and uniform safeguards, and related the difficulties and successes of faculty as they quickly imple-

Summer 2020 CCA Calendar



The CCA Advocate is also available online at the CCA website: cca4us.org

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Colleges Will Need Full Funding to Reopen Safely

Update on the State Budget

AS THIS EDITION OF THE ADVOCATE goes to press, the final decisions have not been made regarding the state's budget and the funding of California's community colleges. Get updates at cca4us.org or cta.org/our-advocacy/state-budget.

The COVID-19 crisis has created an economic environment that threatens to devastate California's public education. Gov. Newsom's May budget revision falls far short of what is necessary to reopen colleges and K-12 schools safely.

More must be done, said CCA President Eric Kaljumägi. "The health and safety of all students and faculty must be the first priority in reopening public schools and colleges, but the resources have to be available to make that happen. And faculty have to be part of those discussions and decisions."

The May Revision reveals a \$54.3 billion shortfall in state revenues compared

to the governor's January proposal, and a decrease of \$10.6 billion in Proposition 98 funds compared to last year. Under the governor's proposal, funding for the Student Centered Funding Formula (SCFF) would be cut by 10 percent. This cut would be undone if additional federal funding comes in. The May Revision also includes cuts to most categorical programs.

The state Senate recently adopted its version of the budget. The plan:

- Includes a trigger deferral, unless federal funding comes in, and provides an additional \$674 million deferral.
- Rejects the 10 percent cut to the SCFF, and provides a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA).
- Funds enrollment growth.
- Rejects the cuts to categorical programs, such as the Strong Workforce Programs, adult education, and part-time faculty office hours.

• Sweeps \$77 million one-time funding from Calbright College.

At press time the Senate and Assembly did reach a budget agreement. Kaljumägi released the following statement regarding that agreement:

"In 2018 an experimental new community college district was formed that was to be entirely online, have neither units nor degrees, and be closely aligned with paid apprenticeships provided by large California companies. Starting up a new college district is not a simple task, but Calbright's refusal to rely on an established partner district, their duplication of online programs found elsewhere in the system, and their delay in hiring full-time faculty shifted CCA's position on this district from optimistically neutral to opposed. The Calbright experiment so far has a very high cost per student and a low success rate.

"With dramatic cuts to higher educa-

tion proposed by the governor this past May, shifting the nearly \$100 million of unspent Calbright funds elsewhere in the higher education budget helps to preserve the core of our educational system. Some 2.1 million community college students, including the majority of nursing and paramedic students in the state, rely on the 114 accredited California Community Colleges for transfer preparation, career and technical education, and basic skills. We urge the Legislature and governor to continue to work towards a budget that allows these colleges to continue to provide the access to instruction needed for our students to reach their educational goals."

The Legislature passed its budget on June 15, meeting its constitutional deadline.

Full-Court Press for Federal Funding

CTA/CCA AND NEA are en- tacting lawmakers directly through gaged in a full-court press of state and national lawmakers to secure the funding our schools will need to reopen safely. CCA members should make their voices heard by con-

our COVID-19 Budget Crisis page (cta.org/covid19budgetcrisis). The page provides links where you can contact your senators and your U.S. representatives.

Faculty are urging U.S. senators to pass the \$3 trillion HEROES Act, and California lawmakers to pass a budget with no education cuts.

It's going to take action! **Email** your lawmakers today.

Faculty Voices Heard at the Statehouse

MONITORING LEGISLATIVE

PROCESS and advocating for laws that achieve gains for students, faculty and community colleges are CCA priorities. When local CCA members have voiced concerns, CCA leaders have done whatever they could to address them in Sacramento. Unfortunately, much of the work done on various issues took a backseat as the COVID-19 pandemic shifted lawmakers' priorities.

At cca4us.org/legislationpolitical

employment environment better for college faculty. Since the pandemic, there has been more discussion of legislation addressing the basic needs of students.

What can college faculty do to support CCA's work in Sacramento? "Connect with and provide feedback to the committee members about your ideas for sponsored bills for next session," recommends Randa Wahbe, chair of the CCA Legislation and Advocacy Committee and CCA vice president. Members of this committee recommend positions on legislation to the CCA Council and the CTA State Legislation Committee, propose sponsored legislation, and promote political action on community college issues. Committee members are Randa Wahbe, Ricardo Aguilar, John Martin, Narges Rabii-Rakin, Shaaron Vogel (pending CCA board approval), Josie Malik, Sharon Paxton, Wendy Brill-Wynkoop and Josue Arredondo. Their contact information can be found at <u>cca4us.org</u>.



DESPITE THE CHALLENGES toric budget shortfall, one thing is facing schools because of clear: Schools and Communities COVID-19, there is still some great First will be key to California's

action, you can find the status and CCA position on bills on issues such as pay parity for part-time faulty, requirements for districts entering College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) partnerships, provisions regarding admission to college nursing programs, job security issues, transferring sick leave, student fees, career development and college preparation courses, and issues involving the California College Promise program.

The CCA Legislation and Advocacy Committee works with CTA Governmental Relations advocates to stay on top of the bills being proposed and being considered, and they are actively engaged in making the

news to celebrate. The Schools and Communities First initiative qualified for the November ballot with more signatures than any proposition in California history. The 1.7 million signatures collected represent the support and effort of more than 300 social justice, faith-based, education, labor and philanthropic organizations powering SCF. It proves that Californians are ready to close corporate tax loopholes in order to generate \$12 billion every year for critical local services, essential workers and schools.

As college districts, local governments and the state face a hisrecovery and reinvestment. We simply can't afford corporate tax loopholes at the expense of our state's future.

With this initiative, we can invest in local governments, education and essential workers like first responders and public health nurses, which will be so critical to recovering from this crisis while protecting homeowners and renters, small businesses, and agriculture.

CTA/CCA members will be key to passing SCF in November. Be ready to talk to your friends, families and colleagues about this measure.

The Standard is Here for You

As the global health crisis continues to disrupt lives and communities, The Standard's commitment to CTA members remains unchanged. We are open and ready to help you with questions, claims, enrolling in coverage or updating your beneficiaries.

In these uncertain times, taking care of your loved ones is more important than ever. If you would like to learn more about how CTA-endorsed Disability and Life insurance can help protect your paycheck and loved ones, visit **CTAMemberBenefits.org/TheStandard**.



For costs and further details of the coverage, including exclusions, any reductions or limitations and the terms under which the policies may be continued in force, please contact The Standard's dedicated CTA Customer Service Department at 800.522.0406 (TTY).

Standard Insurance Company, 1100 SW Sixth Avenue, Portland, OR 97204 GP190-LTD/S399/CTA.1 GP190-LIFE/S399/CTA.3 SI 21564-CTAvol (05/20)

Black Lives Matter

Let Us Show Others How to Reduce Racism and **Inequity in Our Communities**

In response to the memorials freedom if we fear our police. for George Floyd, who died in police custody, and demonstrations protesting racism across the country, CCA President Eric Kaljumägi notes that college faculty, as educators, have a responsibility to work to abolish institutional racism.

WE CONTINUE TO SEE an appalling number of events where police harm the black members of our society, and we share the outrage at the indifference to life and safety expressed by some of those sworn to serve and protect us.

Black lives matter. We cannot tolerate police actions that allow compressing the neck of an unarmed man in handcuffs. as we saw with George Floyd, or no-knock police raids in the middle of the night by plainclothes officers, as in the death of Breonna Taylor. Better training will help, but our culture must no longer accept these tions of hope rather than simbarbaric practices.

We cannot reach our ideal of

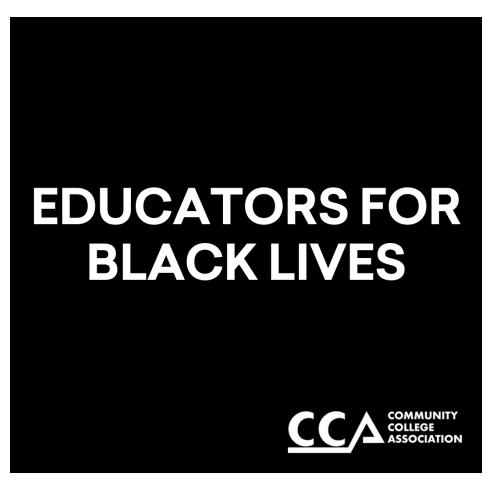
The institutional racism inherent in our society is tenacious, and as educators, we have a responsibility to work to abolish it. While this will without doubt take time, we can act today to affect the culture of our homes and our campuses. Our students need to feel safe and respected, and though the worst offenses took place a thousand miles away, our alarm and disgust are present here and now.

We call upon our members to enhance their discussions of equity and diversity in light of these continuing shocking events. Will your campus use a police force in dark, threatening uniforms, or an unarmed public safety team? Will there be a focus on control or safety? Will their training guide them to de-escalate or criminalize behavior? Now is the time to press our campuses to be basple reflections of society.

It is the responsibility of ed-

ucators to teach all students, to reduce racism and inequisome of whom will become our ty in our communities. Let us future leaders. Together, teachers can effect change in a way that most other professions cannot. Through our actions and influence, we can be the model that shows others how

channel our personal grief and anger to do so.



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SPECIAL

FOR CCA

MEMBERS

COMMUNITY OLLEGE SSOCIATION Approved by:

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CREDIT

Tech Talk

Tools to Help Students See and Understand Your Class

ALTHOUGH LAWS ABOUT ACCESSIBILITY have been on the books for ages, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought the issue of helping students with disabilities, including those who are hard of hearing, blind or even colorblind, to the front of the class. As college faculty move from brick-and-mortar classrooms to virtual ones, providing live closed-captioning, transcriptions of lectures, and visuals has proved to be challenging. Here are few digital tools used by David Hurst, College of the Sequoias, to make the process a little more efficient.



CAMTASIA techsmith.com/video-editor

A screen recording and editing program, it has a PowerPoint plug-in that can convert a presentation to video with your voice-over. It handles closed-captioning easily, though the software itself has a bit of a learning curve. Cost: \$170 with the education discount. Note: This is not a subscription, so you own the software and can install it on two computers.





Have tools you'd like to suggest or highlight? Email suggestions to <u>ccaAdvocate@cta.org</u>.





OTTER

otter.ai

An audio recording app for cellphones and tablets that works on all platforms. The free account allows for up to 600 minutes per month of recording, and the premium is worth considering. Otter instantly transcribes and saves the transcription with time stamps, and it can distinguish between different speakers. Transcriptions can be edited online or downloaded as a text file for editing or conversion to a caption file.



KANOPY kanopy.com

A video subscription platform that has content aimed at public and educational institution libraries. The videos are already closed-captioned, and there is a broad range of educational content on the site that works seamlessly for students. Faculty can advocate their district purchase access, but

it might also be possible to use the access from the local public library if they have a subscription (Fresno County does, for example).



SCREENCAST-O-MATIC

screencast-o-matic.com/education

A program similar to Camtasia, it integrates with Canvas. It is the basic of the basics with a free version that allows for screen recording. The cheapest paid version is only \$20 per year and lets you add in captions, narration and music.

We know that current events have you driving less, and Keep on Course has a different meaning as educators across the nation transition their school community to online. You've got a lot going on right now...and we believe you deserve a new vehicle now more than ever.



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COVID-19 Moves Everything Online

Congratulations to All Graduates!

FOR A COLLEGE FACULTY MEMBER, a parent or a student, honoring those who were graduating during this pandemic required new ways of doing things. Across California, colleges and faculty worked hard to virtually honor students, their families and communities for their accomplishments, and to share the joy of this moment through the beauty of technology.

For example, members of the Charger Experience program team at Cypress College (right) distributed regalia to the college's Promise students prior to the May 22 virtual commencement. The Charger Experience program supports students' transition into college, connecting them to services and people on campus to help ensure a successful higher education experience.



Pandemic Brings New Ways to **Communicate, Advocate & Educate**

PRE-COVID-19 PANDEMIC, your CCA officers each have a new email address. officers traveled the state visiting with chapter members, discussing challenges facing local faculty and gaining directions local members would like CCA to address at the state level. In the visit with Mt. San Jacinto College Faculty Association members (right), topics included the Student Centered Funding Formula (SCFF) and Guided Pathways.

Like CCA members, officers have come up with new and different ways to communicate and hear member opinions and concerns: local presidents and board members meet in online conference rooms. And, the

- CCA President Eric Kaljumägi president@cca4us.org
- CCA Vice President Randa Wahbe vp@cca4us.org
- CCA Secretary John Sullivan secretary@cca4us.org
- CCA Treasurer Jonathan Ausubel treasurer@cca4us.org

Find the contact information for all of CCA's board of directors at www.cca4us.org/about/ leadership/boardofdirectors.



CCA officers visit Mt San Jacinto's Menifee campus. Pictured are standing (L-R): Elias Escamilla, site representative; Karen Cranney, MSJC Faculty Association president; Miranda Angeles, site representative; Shelley Aguilar, vice president; Lorraine Slattery, site representative; Eric Kaljumägi, CCA president; Paul Hendry, MSJCFA secretary. Seated (L-R) are Randa Wahbe, CCA vice president; Bertha Barraza, site representative; Roy Mason, treasurer; Susan Pynes, CCA director for District H-1

CCA Webinars — Excellent Real-Time Resources

CCA IS PROVIDING A NUMBER OF **WEBINARS** to meet the needs of part-time and fulltime faculty. CCA's Unemployment Insurance for Part-Time Faculty webinar, for example, was presented three times during May and was attended by 640 people. Also well attended were webinars on remote union meetings and membership outreach. The June 5 webinar, Bargaining Implications of Distance Learning, involved 56 participants.

Additional CCA webinars were held on the following topics:

- Legislative Updates June 22
- Telling the Story of College District Finances June 24
- State Budget Overview June 25
- ٠ Contract Enforcement and Bargaining Strategies -

CCA members can find more webinar offerings and get registration information, including links, from local presidents, their CTA field staff, from the CCA Closed Facebook Group or from the calendar on CCA's website: <u>www.cca4us.org.</u>

Join CCA's Private Facebook Group

ANOTHER WAY TO CONNECT WITH CCA leadership and members, or to network with colleagues on community college issues, is to join CCA's private Facebook group. This private group is for CCA leaders to privately discuss issues and share information and resources. Participants must understand that materials shared there are NOT to be shared publicly. CCA members who want to join the group can go to facebook.com/groups/ cca4us and ask to join. They must answer questions about their CCA membership to join the private group.

and safety information, and resources about COVID-19 at CCA's website, private Facebook group and on CTA's private page: www.facebook.com/groups/ctacovid19. There you will find numerous distance learning webinars.



Summer Conferences — The Home Edition!

To ensure the safety of our members, CTA/CCA has moved its summer conferences online.

THE PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE

HOME EDITION will be held free of charge to CTA leaders on July 13-17. Find details and register at ctago.org.

This will be an extraordinary opportunity for new and experienced chapter leaders to sign up for virtual sessions designed to enhance your skills as a local leader and help build systems of success for your local chapter.

There are three sessions specifically for CCA presidents: an orientation, bargaining implications of distance learning, and diversity and equity issues. CTA's Presidents Conference provides new and returning presidents a foundation to rely upon as we prepare our chapters well into the future. A variety of informative skill-building sessions will provide opportunities to build lasting relationships with other local leaders. 2020 Summer Institute Home Edition, July **27-30**, is provided free of charge to CTA members. Note: University credit and professional growth hours are available. Find details and register

CCA is committed to ensuring the health and safety of its members and the students they serve. Get updates, health

at ctago.org.

These sessions focus on preparing you and your local for the challenges that lie ahead, and with a special emphasis on the unique issues we will all face as we return to our college campuses in this new era of COVID-19. Topics include: bargaining and building relationships in the midst of a pandemic, building site-based power, economic and social justice, how best to utilize CTA/NEA member benefits, budgeting and district finances, ways to deal with anxiety and stress, digital tools to communicate with faculty and the public, and various professional development sessions.

Again, both conferences will be free to CCA/ CTA members. Registration and additional information are at **<u>ctago.org</u>**.

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1705 Murchison Drive California Teachers Association

Burlingame, CA 94010