

**Office of the President**

**TO MEMBERS OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:**

**DISCUSSION ITEM**

*For Meeting of September 17, 2019*

**THE ROLE OF POLICY IN CLOSING OPPORTUNITY GAPS AND BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES**

**BACKGROUND**

This item presents an opportunity for members of the Public Engagement and Development Committee to learn more about—and highlight—the importance to communities of policies that increase access to employment opportunity and address issues related to support services for California students. In addition to collaborations among multiple community partners and systems, state policies that create robust employment opportunities also strengthen community resources so that residents can prepare for, enter into, and advance in the workforce. State policy also impacts the overall health and mental health of California students. The dialogue will focus on impacts of these policies to the communities in the region of the Mann UCLA Community School, and some of the challenges faced and strategies for overcoming them. To foster this discussion, the committee has invited elected leadership to share their work on these issues.

Senator Holly Mitchell (D-Los Angeles), who represents the Senate district where the Mann UCLA Community School is located, will attend the meeting. Senator Mitchell will speak to efforts in the region, including the neighborhoods surrounding Mann UCLA Community School, to increase access to employment. For example, Senator Mitchell has authored legislation that would renew the Film and Television Tax Credit as part of a broader effort to help ensure local availability of behind-the-scenes production jobs that impact thousands of residents of Los Angeles County.

Additionally, Assemblymember Reginald Jones-Sawyer, Sr. (D-South Los Angeles), who represents the Assembly district where the Mann UCLA Community School has sought to address issues related to health, mental health, and other supportive services for California students. He has championed policies in support of greater educational opportunity and social development and these issues will also be a focus of the conversation.

The Public Engagement and Development Committee will also learn more about the work of the Senate Select Committee on the Status of Boys and Men of Color. The committee, chaired by Senator Steven Bradford (D-Gardena) examines the challenges currently facing African American, Latino, Native American, and Asian/Pacific Islander boys and men in California and will focus on developing strategies that yield positive outcomes.