

Christie Diep, United Faculty President
Statement to Board of Trustees October 22, 2019

In 2018, the District paid for a study titled “Analysis of the Economic Impact and Return on Investment of Education: The Economic Value of the North Orange County Community College District.”

This study highlights our significant success in creating, “returns on investment to students, taxpayers, and society.”

Page 6 states: “The colleges naturally help students achieve their individual potential and develop the knowledge, skills, and abilities they need, to have fulfilling and prosperous careers.”

In addition, “The colleges’ program offerings supply employers with workers to make their businesses more productive.”

The recognition that “program offerings” are fundamental is a crucial insight.

Program offerings originate through our curriculum, which is both created and taught by faculty.

In fact, page 3 of the report uses a picture of a faculty member and a student to signify this foundation.

The classroom, whether it be on campus or online, is where the greatest, most continuous impact happens for both individuals and society.

The classroom is more than FTES. The classroom is the heart of what we are as a District and faculty are the foundation.

Each of you Trustees are the caretakers of that foundation. Each of you Trustees are the caretakers of our long-term value structure.

The cornerstone of being able to attract and retain top faculty and fulfill our District commitment to diversity is always, ultimately, in your hands.

A sinking foundation is not a reflection of human care and commitment.

A cold, corporate structure is not a reflection of human care and commitment.

Our Trustees are the ultimate caretakers. The ultimate, determining authority of investment that reflects both the vision and the heart of our District.