California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott to Participate Tuesday in Community College League of California Webinar on Gov. Brown’s May Revised Budget Proposal

❖ Who/What: California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott
Community College League of California CEO/President Scott Lay
California Community Colleges Vice Chancellor for Fiscal Policy Dan Troy
Community College League of California Director of Fiscal Policy Theresa Tena

The panel will participate in two webinars to discuss Gov. Brown’s revised state budget proposal that detailed the $16 billion deficit and how California’s 112 community colleges – the nation’s largest system of higher education – will be impacted. These calls are open to all campus constituencies, the media and other interested parties. Questions submitted via the webinar will be answered at the conclusion of the initial presentation.

❖ When/Where: Tuesday, May 15, 2012 at 10 a.m. AND 3 p.m.
*Fill out the form and the details will be sent to you. Passcodes change for each of the two webinars. It is recommended that you check your computer’s compatibility before trying to enter the webinar.*
➢ Sound only/Teleconference line: (888) 886-3951
   Pass code for 10 a.m. call: 606394
   Pass code for 3 p.m. call: 665901

*These are webinars, and the media are encouraged to use the log-in information to follow along with the PowerPoint presentation that will be used. Media members can listen in to the audio streaming with the PowerPoint, or call in separately on a phone line. All phone lines will be muted to reduce background noise.*

❖ Why: If Gov. Brown’s November tax initiative passes, the community college system will receive $313 million in new money. But if the tax plan fails at the polls, the California Community Colleges will take approximately $300 million in additional mid-year trigger cuts.

Since 2008-2009, the California Community Colleges have suffered cuts totaling $809 million, or 12 percent of...
the system’s total budget. The demand for a community college education in California is continuing to outstrip resources.

State budget cuts have forced campuses to reduce course offerings by roughly 15 percent at a time when more students than ever are seeking to enroll. Enrollment in the system has plummeted by 300,000 since the 2009-10 academic year.

On top of the $502 million cut that the California Community Colleges system took in 2011-12 academic year, colleges are being hit with an unexpected revenue shortfall of $100 million because property tax and student fees are lower than original estimates. This was known as the “February Surprise.” The governor’s revised budget does not offer the system relief for the funding shortage.

California’s economy is highly dependent upon an educated workforce and it’s the taxpayer who is short changed when colleges and universities turn away students. If just 2 percent more of California’s population earned associate degrees and 1 percent more earned bachelor’s degrees, the state’s economy would grow by $20 billion. Those educated workers would generate state and local taxes of $1.2 billion a year and 174,000 new jobs would be created in California. For every $1 that California invests in higher education, the state gets $4.50 in return.

The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation composed of 72 districts and 112 colleges serving 2.6 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, basic skills education and prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions. The Chancellor’s Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. For more information about the community colleges, please visit http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/.

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