



# CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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## S Y S T E M   O F F I C E

### **For Immediate Release**

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## **Community College Enrollments Surge, Outpace Available Resources**

**SACRAMENTO** – Newly tabulated attendance data indicate that student enrollments at California’s 110 community colleges are surging at a dramatic rate. Reports submitted by the community colleges to the State Chancellor’s Office show that enrollments are up at 103 of the state’s 110 community colleges. Statewide, enrollments have increased by 6.4 percent, or over 150,000 students, compared to last year.

“These enrollment reports are confirming what college leaders have been saying from the beginning of the academic year—the demand for community college education and training is surging,” said State Chancellor Jack Scott. “With statewide unemployment at 11.2 percent, California’s displaced workers are pursuing the training they need to get back in the workforce. The colleges are also seeing more demand from students who were not able to enter the University of California or California State University due to restricted admissions.”

This increase in enrollments is well beyond the 2 percent enrollment increase funded in the state budget for the current year. “The colleges are currently serving over 140,000 students for which they are receiving no funding,” said Vice Chancellor for Fiscal Policy Erik Skinner. “The colleges are stretching their dollars as far as they will go in an attempt to meet the increased student demand. The result is overflowing classrooms, closed course sections, and long waiting lists.”

As local community colleges plan their budgets for the upcoming year, they are closely watching the state budget situation. Given that the colleges are almost entirely dependent on funding from the state, their ability to hire faculty and offer course sections is largely determined by the state budget.

“While, up to this point, state leaders have done their best to protect the community colleges from deep budget cuts, we are concerned about what the future holds,” said Chancellor Scott, “Given how the colleges are already spread thin, additional budget cuts will result in fewer course sections and fewer students being served. Such a reduction in access to education and training would undermine California’s economic recovery.”

*The California Community Colleges is the largest higher educational system in the nation comprised of 72 districts and 110 colleges with more than 2.7 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training and basic skills education, prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions and offer opportunities for personal enrichment and lifelong learning. 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 [www.cccco.edu](http://www.cccco.edu)*

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