



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

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Contact: Paige Marlatt Dorr

Office: 916.327.5356

Cell: 916.601.8005

Office E-mail: pdorr@cccco.edu

BlackBerry: PMarlatt@comcast.net

California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott Urges Legislators to Retain State's Global Standing as a Model System for the Delivery of Public Higher Education

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott testified today in front of the Legislature's Joint Committee on the Master Plan. The review of the Master Plan for Higher Education comes on the eve of the document's 50th anniversary. In a shared appearance, Scott along with California State University Chancellor Charles Reed and University of California President Mark Yudof updated policy makers on their perspectives about how California's fiscal crises is putting at risk the ideals outlined in the state's 1960 Master Plan.

The 50th anniversary of the Master Plan provides the Legislature and the education leaders an opportunity to step back and evaluate whether public colleges and universities are living up to the ideals that a higher education should be accessible and affordable to everyone seeking to improve their life situation. "This Master Plan has proved to be remarkably successful," said California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott. "Unfortunately, the three segments of higher education do not have the resources to fully meet the mission outlined in the Plan. Therefore, the Master Plan with its grand ideal of higher education for every qualified student is clearly in jeopardy today."

California's Master Plan has served as the universal gold star standard for nearly five decades and is admired and envied worldwide. The framework laid out in the original 1960 document serves as a blueprint defining specific roles for the University of California, California State University and the California Community Colleges. Although the Master Plan has undergone many reviews over the years, the document's underlying principles that California's system of higher education should be accessible and affordable to all persons seeking higher learning has been retained.

A review of the Master Plan must be accompanied by a fiscal discussion about the state of funding for California's students. "We in higher education may not have been killed with a lethal blow, but we have been wounded with a thousand cuts," said Scott. "It is the students who suffer the most by this denial of a college education. All persons in America are entitled to equal opportunity and no opportunity is more essential to upward mobility than an education. It is the essential gateway to a better life. Eventually the state's budget cuts will not only affect the individual students, but they will also negatively impact the economy of California."

In 1965, more than 16 percent of the California's state budget was dedicated to paying for higher education whereas today it is only 10 percent. "My fundamental recommendation to this committee as you study the Master Plan is simple: fully fund it," said Scott. "To borrow a line from Winston Churchill, 'Give us the tools and we will finish the job.'"

To read the full transcript from Chancellor Scott's testimony, please visit the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Web site at www.cccco.edu. For more information on Chancellor Scott's perspective about the status of the California Community Colleges, you can read a copy of his speech, "[Living in Difficult Times](#)."

The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation comprised of 72 districts and 110 colleges serving 2.9 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 www.cccco.edu.

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