



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

PRESS RELEASE

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Late Budget Costing Community Colleges Millions and Unmet Demand Mounts

Students Pour on to Community College Campuses as the Great Recession Continues

Sacramento, Calif. – California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott today along with California State University Chancellor Charles Reed and University of California President Mark Yudof held a media briefing at the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce to discuss the impact of continued budget cuts on higher education in California.

“Crowded classrooms, waiting lists of thousands and fewer course offerings are some of the conditions students face as they arrive on campus ready to begin the fall semester,” said Chancellor Jack Scott. “You know things are bad when there are more students on our waiting lists than sitting in many of our classrooms.”

In the 2009/10 academic year, the California Community Colleges sustained \$520 million in budget cuts which equates to roughly 8 percent of its overall budget. The cuts forced campuses to reduce course offerings by as much as 20 percent at a time when more students than ever were seeking admission. This resulted in a greater number of students squeezing into fewer classes and waitlisted seats soaring in to the thousands.

While community college officials continue the struggle to meet student demand and do more with less, other budget issues are also causing concern. The 58 day delay in the California budget has resulted in a blockage of all state payments to the community colleges including \$116 million that was due in July and \$277 million due in August.

Deep budget cuts and more than \$1 billion in funding deferrals have left the colleges vulnerable. The state’s September payment, scheduled to go out on September 28, is one of the largest payments of the year at nearly \$450 million. If this payment is missed, it will bring the cumulative funding delay to \$840 million, or roughly 15 percent of districts’ total annual funding.

As a direct result of the delayed and deferred payments, community colleges have been forced to borrow money at a system-wide cost estimated in excess of \$5 million. This is money that the colleges could be using to educate students.

- more -

This fall, students are pouring on to community college campuses seeking many different types of services. The unemployed are in search of career training. Displaced students from the University of California and California State University are seeking general education courses to transfer. Returning veterans are hoping to supplement their skills with a college degree or certificate.

In 2010, California's largest graduating class of high school seniors hit the streets. Many are turning to community colleges to begin their higher education plans. Data from fall 2009 indicates first-time community college student enrollments decreased by 12 percent. This means many recent high school graduates wanting to attend a community college will not be able to do so due to space constraints exacerbated by their lack of priority registration.

Community college leaders are encouraged by Chancellor Scott to protect core programs and preserve classes in the areas of career technical education, transfer and basic skills.

"Our colleges are doing the best they can to educate hundreds of thousands of students for which the state is providing no remuneration," said Scott. "But the reality is with the delayed budget things are getting worse. The community colleges and California's college students are at a greater risk than ever before."

The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation composed of 72 districts and 112 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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Note to Reporters/Editors:

- Enrollment data for fall 2009 is available upon request.
- **For one-on-one interviews at the Chamber event:**
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An Early Look Around the State:

Here's what our colleges are reporting today about fall 2010 as compared to fall 2009 –

(Please note this information is intended to provide a 'snapshot' in time. The enrollment numbers are very fluid and can change frequently throughout the first couple of months of each semester.)

▪ **Bakersfield College**

- Fall semester **started** August 23
- Enrollment is **UP** 5.8 percent
- Course sections **INCREASED** - 27 additional classes added
- Waitlisted seats **INCREASED** by 13.1 percent - 12,903 waitlisted seats

▪ **Cerritos College**

- Fall semester **started** August 16
- Enrollment is **UP** 5.1 percent
- Course sections **INCREASED** by 1.1 percent - 27 additional classes added
- Waitlisted seats **INCREASED** - *number of seats not available - it does not fully demonstrate demand as lists are capped at 10 students per class or 10 percent of entire class size*

▪ **Coastline Community College**

- Fall semester **starts** August 30
- Enrollment is projected to be roughly the **SAME**
- Classes **DECREASED** – 250 classes were cut primarily in the area of non-credit emeritus
- Waitlisted classes account for 30 percent of all credit sections - 168 classes are waitlisted with approximately 1,500 students on the lists

▪ **Contra Costa Community College District (Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College, Los Medanos College)**

- Fall semester **starts** September 6
- Enrollment is **DOWN** by 7.6 percent
- Course sections **DECREASED** by 7.7 percent
- Waitlists are not formally kept in this district

- **Cypress College**
 - Fall semester **started** August 16 – late semester classes start August 30 and October 18
 - Enrollment is **DOWN** by 0.4 percent
 - Course sections **DECREASED** by 4.3 percent – 63 sections cut
 - 6,219 waitlisted seats - waitlists were not formally kept in 2009/10 academic year

- **El Camino College**
 - Fall semester **starts** August 28
 - Enrollment is **UP** by 0.5%
 - Course sections **DECREASED** by 10 percent
 - There are 13,659 waitlisted seats

- **Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District (Cuyamaca College, Grossmont College)**
 - Fall semester **started** August 23
 - Enrollment is **UP** by 5 percent district-wide
 - Course sections **DECREASED** by 6 percent district-wide – 158 classes cut
 - Waitlisted seats **INCREASED** by roughly 100 percent - 15,200 waitlisted seats

- **Los Rios Community College District (American River College, Cosumnes River College, Folsom Lake College, Sacramento City College)**
 - Fall semester **started** August 23
 - Enrollment is **DOWN** by roughly 3,000 students
 - Course sections **DECREASED** – 850 classes cut
 - 80,000 waitlisted seats in the district - waitlists for all classes are full.
 - Unmet demand is estimated at 12,000 to 13,000 students for the semester.

- **Pasadena City College**
 - Fall semester **starts** August 30
 - Credit enrollment is **UP** 3.3 percent
 - Credit classes **DECREASED** by 0.7 percent
 - Waitlisted seats **INCREASED** by 23.2 percent - 5,154 waitlisted seats

- **Rio Hondo College**
 - Fall semester **started** August 23
 - Enrollment is **UP** by 18 percent - units enrolled is also **UP** by 3 percent
 - Classes offered is the **SAME**
 - 2,500 waitlisted seats – *this does not necessarily fully demonstrate demand as waitlists are capped at 20 students.*

- **San Bernardino Valley College**
 - Fall semester **started** August 16
 - Enrollment is **UP** by 16 percent
 - Course sections **DECREASED** by 10 percent
 - Waitlists are not formally kept - Faculty members in English, math and science reported turning away an equal or greater number of students waiting to add than are already seated and registered in the class (i.e. 35 students in the class and 35+ looking to add).

- **San Diego Community College District** (*San Diego City College, San Diego Mesa College, San Diego Miramar College*)
 - Fall semester **started** August 23
 - Enrollment is **UP** by 6 percent at City, nearly 10 percent at Mesa, more than 2 percent at Miramar.
 - There are 7,700 waitlisted seats at City, more than 8,600 at Mesa, more than 4,800 at Miramar.
 - 64 percent of the classes at City and more than 67 percent of the classes at Mesa and Miramar are waitlisted.

- **San Mateo Community College District** (*Canada College, College of San Mateo, Skyline College*)
 - Fall semester **started** August 18
 - Enrollment is **DOWN** by 2.4 percent at Canada, 4.8 percent at College of San Mateo, more than 2.5 percent at Skyline.
 - There are 17,947 waitlisted seats in the district

- **Santa Monica College**
 - Fall semester **starts** August 30
 - Enrollment is **DOWN** by 0.68 percent
 - Course sections **REDUCED** by roughly 3 percent
 - Waitlists are not formally kept - officials projecting 45 additional students waiting to get in to each class already closed – they will have more than two times the number of students for each class.

- **Santiago Canyon College**
 - Fall semester **started** August 23
 - Enrollment is **DOWN** by 2 percent
 - Course sections **REDUCED** by 6.1 percent
 - There are roughly 1,900 waitlisted seats

- **Victor Valley College**

- Fall semester **starts** August 30
- Enrollment is **UP** by 22 percent
- Course sections are **DOWN** by 2 percent
- Waitlists are not formally kept

2010/11 Budget Breakdown:

- ❖ The Governor’s May state budget revision and the Senate budget plan both proposed **2.2 percent enrollment growth funding (\$126 million) for the California Community Colleges**. The Assembly budget proposal includes \$128 million for enrollment growth as well as \$100 million for job training to get Californians back to work.
 - **California community colleges are currently educating significantly more students than the state is funding. The system sustained \$520 million in cuts, or approximately 8 percent of its overall budget in 2009-10. This translates to more than 200,000 unfunded students attending a community college campus.**
 - The \$126 million proposed growth augmentation would fund approximately 60,000 of the 200,000 currently unfunded students (headcount) and will help the colleges respond to the tremendous enrollment demand they are experiencing.

Enrollment Demand:

