



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

MEDIA STATEMENT

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California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott Comments on the State Budget Passed by the Legislature

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott today released the following statement on the state budget passed by the Legislature:

“In this recession, hundreds of thousands of individuals are turning to our nation’s community colleges to find classes in an effort to obtain new or updated job skills. In addition to traditional high school graduates, we’re enrolling high numbers of unemployed and under-employed individuals seeking short-term job certification programs in order to get back into the workforce quickly or hang on to their current jobs.

“In light of this demand, I’m pleased our legislative leaders agreed to augment our budget to help us serve more students in 2010-11, and expand workforce training programs. However, the budget also defers \$189 million of the money promised us until the next year. This action tends to undermine the funding increases by obligating our system to expand this year, but does not provide colleges with the resources to do so until next year.

“We’re still faced with the fact that far more students want to attend a community college than our funding will allow. Even with these increases in our budget, policymakers need to understand the demand for a community college education is continuing to outstrip resources. This will have a severe impact on the economic recovery of our state because our system is the largest provider of workforce training.

“The community colleges are serving roughly 200,000 students for which we are receiving no state remuneration. The \$126 million growth augmentation will fund approximately 60,000 of the 200,000 unfunded students on our campuses. The enrollment funding will help our colleges respond to the tremendous demand they are experiencing but the deferral still puts us in a tough spot. Our credit card is getting pretty heavy here.”

The [California Community Colleges](#) is the largest system of higher education in the nation. It is composed of 72 districts and 112 colleges serving 2.76 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, a basic skills education and prepare students for transfer to four-year colleges and universities. The Chancellor’s Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

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