



# CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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## CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

### **MEDIA STATEMENT**

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### **California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott Says New Report Highlights Damage Done by Failure to Properly Fund Higher Education**

*SACRAMENTO, Calif.* – California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott issued the following statement today on the release of a report by the Public Policy Institute of California detailing the declining enrollment of high school graduates in California public colleges and universities:

“This report shows the self-inflicted damage to California’s economy by our failure to properly fund higher education. We have two choices: reverse this trend by restoring access and affordability to higher education, or suffer the consequences of failing to educate the workforce that this state’s economy demands. Increased outsourcing of college education to other states is not a sustainable alternative. Unfortunately, many of these students will not return. California needs to produce more college educated workers who contribute to our economy, not export them.”

Scott noted that the pressures forcing high school graduates to increasingly seek college opportunities out of state also apply to transfer students from community colleges. Transfers from California community colleges to out-of-state baccalaureate granting institutions increased by 36 percent in three years, from 13,909 transfers out of state in 2007-08 to 18,964 in 2010-11.

*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 system, please visit <http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu>.*

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### **BUDGET CLIMATE & BACKGROUND:**

- Chronic and severe budget cuts have left California community college officials struggling to meet student demand and do more with less.

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- Since 2008-09, the California Community Colleges budget has been cut by **\$809 million**, or **12 percent**, and total enrollment has gone down by **300,000** students at a time of increased demand.
- 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 **\$149 million** because property tax and student fees are lower than original estimates.
- The state budget cuts have forced campuses to reduce course offerings by roughly **15 percent** at a time when more students than ever are seeking admission

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