



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

PRESS RELEASE

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California Community Colleges Board of Governors Honors Gov. Jerry Brown for Leadership and Support of Public Higher Education

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The California Community Colleges Board of Governors and Chancellor Brice W. Harris honored Gov. Jerry Brown Monday for his leadership in support of Proposition 30, the successful November ballot measure that significantly improved the budget climate at the state's 112 community colleges.

"This Board of Governors award recognizes Gov. Brown's critical role in the passage of Proposition 30, which averted further cuts to community colleges," board President Manuel Baca said. "If not for his leadership, colleges would have been cut an additional \$338 million this year. Convincing 55 percent of the state's voters to approve this measure was no small feat."

The passage of Proposition 30 means that the community college system will be able to serve about 20,000 additional students this year. Defeat of Proposition 30 would have translated into 29,000 fewer classes offered and 180,000 fewer students served.

During the recession, funding for California community colleges was cut by \$1.5 billion, and the system was forced to turn away more than 500,000 students.

"Gov. Brown's leadership and sway with voters helped stabilize our system's funding, and now colleges are beginning to add back courses that had been slashed during the recession," Chancellor Harris said. "The governor recognized that a healthy community college system plays a vital role in educating and training California's workforce and helping our economic recovery."

The [California Community Colleges](#) is the largest system of higher education in the nation. It is composed of 72 districts and 112 colleges serving 2.4 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, basic skills courses in English and math, 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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