MEDIA ADVISORY

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California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott to participate Wednesday in Community College League of California webinar on Gov. Brown’s 2012-13 budget

Who/What: California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott
Community College League of California CEO/President Scott Lay
California Community Colleges Vice Chancellor of College Finance Dan Troy
Community College League of California Director of Fiscal Policy Theresa Tena

The panel will participate in a webinar to discuss the state of the system and the impact that Gov. Brown’s proposed 2012-13 budget will have on the 112 colleges. The release of Gov. Brown’s budget proposal is just the opening salvo on what is expected to be a tough budget negotiating session and a precursor to several ballot initiatives that will be considered in the November 2012 general election. Topics also will include the impact of the mid-year budget cuts that totaled $102 million and the looming per unit fee increase to $46.

When/Where: 1 p.m., Wednesday, January 11, 2012
Webinar URL: www.cccconfer.org
Click the “Participant Log In” button under the “Webinars” logo
Locate this meeting and click “Go”
Fill out the form and click connect

(Sound only) Teleconference line: (888) 886-3951
Passcode: 870864
Please sign up by clicking HERE.

Why: On the heels of December’s mid-year budget cuts, the Chancellor’s Office and the League are partnering on the webinar to brief the media and other constituencies on how the system intends to move forward under what is expected to be even tighter fiscal restraints and the possibility of more drastic cuts with the release of Gov. Brown’s budget proposal.

The community colleges have looked at every corner of the system to come up with efficiencies. Tactics have included course reductions, debt restructuring, administrative consolidations, energy savings programs, IT efficiencies, increased class sizes, reduced student services programs, furloughs, additional online instruction, increased industry partnerships and transfer coordination with the UC and CSU. The system is exhausting all options to free up additional funds and many college reserves are low.

Since 2009-10, the California Community Colleges have absorbed $769 million in cuts resulting in hundreds of thousands of students not being served. Those students are looking for an education or skills that will power the state’s economic recovery, which in turn will help drive down the nation’s second-highest unemployment rate.

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The California Community Colleges is the largest provider of workforce training in the state and nation, but the cuts have led to drastic course reductions, the cancellation of entire summer and winter sessions and the loss of adjunct professors. These factors either delay or prohibit the success of the hundreds of thousands of students who are embarking on their educational paths or retooling to better fit in the ever-changing economy.

The California Community Colleges is the most cost-effective system of education in California. While the state revenue needed to support one community college full-time student is slightly more than $5,000 per year, that same student costs approximately $7,500 in the K-12 system and $20,000 and $11,000, respectively, at UC and CSU. And if just 2 percent more of Californians earned associate degrees and 1 percent more earned a bachelor’s degree, our state’s economy would grow by $20 billion, state and local tax revenue would increase by $1.2 billion a year and 174,000 new jobs would be created. The economic return on investment in California’s higher education infrastructure is a win-win for the state and its taxpayers because for every $1 California spends on higher education, it receives $3 in return.

The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation. It is composed of 72 districts and 112 colleges serving 2.6 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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