



## A BALANCED APPROACH

- California's voters should be given the opportunity to decide to extend temporary revenues to maintain vital services through the state's economic downturn.
- California's voters should also be given the opportunity to allow local voters to approve parcel taxes with a 55% vote to backfill state budget cuts at community colleges. (SCA 5 (Simitian))

## OUR BUDGET PRINCIPLES

1. Given the importance of retraining for our newly unemployed and new high school graduates, community colleges should not be asked to take a larger share of education cuts.
2. Increased revenues from student enrollment fees should protect the quality of instruction and student services.
3. Policy and practice reforms to improve student success and incent student behavior should be based on sound research and implemented in a manner to allow students and institutions to adjust.

## OUR POSITION ON THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET

1. We support a balanced approach, including the extension of temporary tax revenues to protect vital state programs along with significant budgetary cuts to bring the budget into balance.
2. We support redirecting any amount of student fee revenue to reduce the proposed apportionment cut. Under the governor's proposal, this would reduce community college apportionment payments by 5%.
3. We oppose the proposal to distribute apportionment based on student retention, and instead encourage an additive, categorical incentive funding program to encourage student success. (*See Vision 2020 Report*)

## THE PEOPLE'S COLLEGES

- As California's higher education system governed locally by elected boards and with participatory involvement of faculty, staff and students, community colleges are well positioned to best decide where budget reductions can best be absorbed.
- "Targeted" cuts at specific curriculum that cost colleges the least to offer will, aside from injuring students in transfer and specific career programs, require districts to reduce enrollment in higher cost programs, such as nursing and advanced technology. This is no different than the University of California, which balances the costs of high- and low-cost majors without a state-driven differential funding model.



## LEADING THE STUDENT SUCCESS EFFORT

California's community colleges are engaged in a multi-year effort to improve student success. Through the Basic Skills Initiative, best practices from around the colleges were identified and are being shared throughout the system. The League's Commission on the Future published A 2020 Vision for Student Success in November 2010, which identifies policy and practice changes to:

- increase quality community college completions by 1 million by 2020;
- eliminate the achievement gap among enrolled students;
- close the participation gap among Latino students.

Student success improvements are essential for our state's economic future and to ensure that all populations in California have equal access to the economic prosperity the state has to offer. However, reform efforts need to be focused on sound research and not be used as a justification for budget cuts or implemented hastily to meet budget reduction needs.

## OUR MAJOR ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE STUDENT SUCCESS

- California's community colleges are busily **implementing SB 1440** (Padilla), to ensure a smooth transfer pathway for students to the California State University by Fall 2011 and working with the University of California to implement AB 2302 (Fong) to create a similar transfer guarantee.
- We are streamlining testing for students, to improve portability of results and placement advice, reducing local and state costs through a **statewide program of uniform student assessment**.
- The League supports **requiring the same satisfactory academic progress for a Board of Governors Fee Waiver** as is required for Cal Grants and Pell Grants. This will encourage student completion and ensure that counselors can rapidly identify struggling students and get them the support services they need.
- The League encourages the **creation of a longitudinal data system Pre-K through higher education and into the workforce**. Only through enhanced research capacity and an increased use of disaggregated data to measure student success can faculty and staff be given the tools to monitor student success.
- While the Board of Governors SB 1143 Task Force develops further recommendations to enhance state policy to improve student success, the League will continue to **showcase model practice programs** developed by faculty and staff at California's community colleges and elsewhere.

*For more information on the League's Commission on the Future and the 2020 Vision for Student Success Report, visit [www.cccvision2020.org](http://www.cccvision2020.org).*