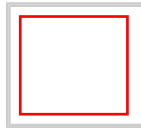


President's Monthly Message (archived)

- updated **February, 2003**

President's Message, February 2003



Learn more about the
< CCA Past President, Dián
Dolores Hasson, [here](#).

An Injury to One...

... is an injury to all. This old union slogan is as true today as it was a century ago. Firmly believing in the philosophy behind this slogan, the Community College Association Board and the CTA State Council passed the following budget priorities:

- Protect community college base apportionments.
- Protect funds for Matriculation and the Academic Senate.
- Maintain quality programs.
- Target any reductions to areas where cuts would least affect instruction and support services.
- Protect funds for part-time faculty compensation, office hours, and health insurance.
- Protect funds for historically underrepresented groups such as Extended Opportunity Services, Puente and Disabled Student Program Services.
- Protect students from any increase in student fees.

Part-time faculty were the first to be hit by the mid-year cuts. Districts cancelled classes, reduced or eliminated summer session and some even unilaterally changed the number of hours adult education classes meet. Many CCA chapters filed Demand to Bargain notices because districts cannot change working conditions unilaterally. Other chapters successfully put pressure on districts to offer some summer classes to meet students' needs. Even more importantly, many CCA chapters from Shasta to Sierra to Long Beach City College called for full-time faculty to volunteer, when appropriate, to give up their overloads so that part-time faculty, faced with reductions in load, could teach those classes.

In addition to the hit on part-time faculty, many worthwhile programs were threatened with cuts. For example, San Joaquin Delta College eliminated the advanced classes for the Electron Microscopy Program, leaving students in that program high and dry. The faculty and students protested and successfully reinstated the classes!

As worthwhile as all of the above efforts are, CCA would like to make such efforts unnecessary by getting districts to access their reserves and to make cuts in items such as consultants, travel, supplies and lawyer fees which are far removed from instruction and services to students. We will do our part at the State level by getting as much money as possible appropriated to community colleges.

CCA worked with others on the Chancellor's Budget Task Force to propose cuts in the mid-year budget which met our priorities. Fortunately, we prevailed in the task force and with the legislature. Base funding was protected with only an across-the-board cut. Moreover, the governor's \$80 million hit for concurrent enrollment was defeated in both houses of the legislature. We also protected line-items for categorical programs such as Matriculation, EOPS, DSPS, Funds for Student Success and Part-time Faculty Compensation. Unfortunately, the governor in February indicated he would veto the legislature's version of the 2002-03 budget and would veto the proposed increase in the motor vehicle license fee. Strange! Gray Davis isn't

willing to increase taxes on those who can afford expensive vehicles but he is quite willing to more than double student fees for community college students!

CCA/CTA is working with all parties to form the most effective coalition possible to save public education, K-14 in this year's budget and in the 2003-04 budget. Although some would like to pit community colleges against pre-K-12 and vice versa, divide and conquer will not work with us. Can you imagine what was in John Vasconcellos and Dede Alpert's minds when they introduced legislation to increase class size in grades

K-3? I cannot. Alex Molnar of Arizona State University found that, "Reducing class size in grades K-3 has been found to have academic benefits in all subject areas, especially for children living in poverty. Studies published since the mid-1980s show that classroom behavior and test scores improve while students are in small classes. Further, the improvement persists through the middle school and high school years, even though students return to full size classes."

CCA and CTA fought shoulder to shoulder to defeat the bills to increase class size. After all, in a few short years those students will be our students. And remember, if K-12 public education fails, it is a short hop to privatizing community colleges, too.

Despite all this bad news, I have to tell you what a good job we are doing. In 2001 California and the U.S. sent 65% of high school graduates to college. That's number one in the world. In 1999, the U.S. had 33% of all college graduates age 25-34 in the world. Japan trailed with 23.5% with Canada following with 22.6%. When we include older college graduates, our percentage soars because the United States and particularly California opens the doors to older students and offers second chances to students who did not enroll in CSU or UC after high school. Community colleges are vital to a democracy dependent upon equal opportunity. CCA/CTA are committed to the realization of our mission. An injury to one is after all an injury to all---and to our democratic system!

Any questions? Call the CCA office at 916/726-4207.

