

President's Monthly Message
NEWS FROM THE FRONT



April, 2008

[CCA/CTA/NEA Legislation AB2277 \(Eng\) Seeks Tax Backfill Shortage For Community Colleges](#)

As a result of legislation that responded to the court ruling in Serrano v. Priest, current law provides for K-12 school districts to be automatically compensated with state funding when property tax revenues fall short of expectations relied upon for the state budget act.

Unlike K-12 school districts, **CCC does not have a mechanism for the automatic backfilling of property taxes not received.** Current law does not provide for a similar adjustment for CCC districts. CCC is currently facing at least an \$80 million shortfall because of a reduction in property tax revenues in addition to the \$31 million mid-year budget reduction already adopted by the Legislature.

This leaves the districts with the following options of reducing course sections, reducing growth or reducing services to students.

CCA/CTA/NEA is proud to announce the following partners supporting our legislation: California Federation of Teachers, Faculty Association of California Community Colleges, Community College League of California, Community College Council, Community College Chancellor's Office, and the Los Angeles Faculty Guild, to name just a few.

[CCA/CTA/NEA "Budget Cuts Hurt" Hotline](#)

Make your voice heard in Sacramento. Call 1-888-268-4334, which will connect you to the CCA/CTA/NEA "Budget Cuts Hurt" hotline. If you call from your home/land line, you will be automatically connected to your Assembly Person or State Senator.

If the connection router cannot read your number, or if you call from a cell phone, it will ask you to enter your zip code and then make

the connection. Identify yourself as a constituent, as well as a college instructor. WE MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY IN LETTING OUR LEGISLATORS KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION!!

CTA 'Cuts Hurt' Bus Tour Stops At Butte College May 5 Focusing On Higher Education's Devastating Impact of Proposed Budget Cuts

Butte College and CCA will host the CTA Officers, David Sanchez, Dean Vogel, and Dan Vaughn as their "Cuts Hurt" Bus Tour pulls onto the college campus to highlight the devastating impact the proposed cuts to the community colleges will encounter. All community college and university faculty members, staff, and students are welcome to attend. Festivities will begin at 1:30 p.m. with a band playing in the outdoor staged event. Music, food, and drinks will be provided for those attending this news activity scheduled to end around 3:30 p.m.

CTA will be discussing the harm that will come to the 50,000 students who won't have classes, delays that will take place for the 98,000 students wanting to transfer to four-year colleges, suspension of certificated programs prohibiting completion and transition into the workforce of California for the 128,000 certificated or degree students, and the invisible (pink) slips that will not be given to the approximate 1,100 part-time faculty members, but instead, will simply have their classes cancelled and won't be rehired.

Higher Education Key To Robust Economy

According to Michele Siqueiros, Executive Director of the Campaign for College Opportunity, "Higher education is the key to our ability to create the robust economy that would prevent the need for future budget cuts."

LAO Analysis Sets Stage For Legislative Budget Hearings

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) has released its Analysis regarding the 2008-09 Budget Bill. Here are some of the highlights of its report:

- Estimates state's budget shortfall at \$16 billion LAO estimate is \$1.5 billion higher than the \$14.5 billion in Governors Budget
- LAO proposes \$2.7 billion in increased revenues associated with reducing or eliminating various tax credits LAO recommends suspension of Prop 98 minimum funding for 2008-09
- LAO proposes an increase in CCC student fees from \$20 to \$26 per unit, generating \$79 million in additional revenues
- LAO proposes funding CCC enrollment growth at 1.7% or 0.7% above the Governor's level. The additional state cost

associated with this increase would be \$37 million

- LAO recommends funding categorical programs at 2007-08 levels with one exception, that being a proposed cut of \$11 million (24%) to the Economic Development program
- LAO recommends an augmentation of \$25 million in ongoing funding for CCC mandate payments, bringing total ongoing funding for this purpose at \$29 million
- LAO recommends suspension of \$450 million in payments to K-12 schools and community colleges scheduled for 2008-09 as part of a settlement of a lawsuit related to Prop 98. (CTA Will NOT AGREE To This)
- LAO proposes establishing two new CCC block grants totaling \$430 million in Student Success Block Grants and \$60.7 million Faculty Support Block Grants
- LAO recommends a reduction of \$200,000 in the CCC System Office budget, as opposed to the \$1 million reduction proposed by the Governor

CCC Begin Preliminary Merger Discussions:

CCA/CTA/NEA and CCC/CFT/AFT held a joint meeting April 3, 2008, where both community college segments (CCA) Community College Association and (CCC) Community College Council were given permission to begin preliminary discussions about a possible merger between the two groups.

Such a merger would mean that the newly formed group would represent approximately 80% of the entire faculty within the California Community College System. This would strengthen the voice of the community college faculty within the Chancellor's office as well as with the Legislators. The combined political power of CTA and CFT locals assisting faculty unions to obtain union-friendly trustees would influence working conditions throughout the entire state. The fundamental interests of community college faculty in both organizations are identical.

Much investigation, planning, and organizing will transpire before a final decision will be made. Each chapter will have an opportunity to participate as the discussions move forward.

POLITICAL NEWS

Speier Wins Special Election To Replace The Late Tom Lantos:

Jackie Speier, a former congressional aide and state lawmaker, won the April 8, 2008, special election to replace the late U.S. Rep. Tom Lantos. By winning more than 50% of the vote, Speier was able to avoid a run-off. Congressperson Lantos, who died earlier this year, was the only Holocaust survivor serving in Congress and a former California Teachers Association staff member.

Senator Migden Regains Right to Use Campaign War Chest:

A federal judge has decided that Senator Carole Migden has the right to use more than \$600,000 in her political coffers in her battle to retain her state Senate seat. The lawmaker is in a tough battle with two other current or former lawmakers—Assembly Member Mark Leno and former Assembly Member Joe Nation—to retain her current Senate seat.

McCain Tells South Dakotans He Supports Vouchers:

During an October 2007 campaign swing, Republican President Contender, John McCain, told a South Dakota audience that he supports vouchers--public funding that would allow parents to send their children to public or private schools, according to KSFY TV, an ABC affiliate.

Governor Concedes Cuts Alone Won't Balance Budget:

The governor has begun telling local officials and reporters that lawmakers will need to be creative to find solutions, other than just cuts, to balance the state's rising budget deficit. While the governor calls for new revenues, he does not support new taxes to bridge the growing deficit.

Democratic Super Delegates Should Vote Conscience, Speaker Says:

The Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressperson Nancy Pelosi, told reporters that democratic Super Delegates should be allowed to vote as they see fit. She also said the contest between the two democratic presidential contenders, Senator Hillary Clinton and Senator Barack Obama, should be allowed to play out – and should not be shortened.

Simon Salinas is Sole Challenger in Denham Recall Election:

A Fresno television station reports that only former Assembly Member Simon Salinas has filed papers to run against Senator Jeff Denham in the special recall election that will take place on June 3, 2008.

(3600 M Street, Merced CA 95348)

NEA Grants Assist California Community Colleges

Community College Association:

CCA and NEA will poll five local chapter faculty members regarding their reasons for entering the teaching field, how they view unions, working conditions, importance of rehire-rights, medical benefits importance, involvement, and other issues facing full and part-time faculty members.

Riverside Community College:

The Riverside Community College has been identified as the target campus for a membership grant drive from the NEA to assist in converting agency fee payers into association members.

College of the Desert Adjunct Association:

The College of the Desert Adjunct Association has received funding from NEA to focus on membership recruitment. The association's goal is to meet with their unit members one-on-one and ask them to join CODAA.

Negotiations:

San Joaquin Delta Community College FA:

The contract year 2007-2008 has been certified to fact-finding.

Solano Community College FA:

The contract year 2007-2008 formed a bargaining coalition on campus with CSEA and Local 39.

Riverside Community College FA:

The contract year 2007-2010 three-year agreement includes a 4.53% salary increase retro to July 1, 2007; funded COLA + 1% for years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010; and fully-paid health benefits for full-time faculty for the term of the agreement.

San Joaquin Delta Community College TA:

SJDC has begun a community search for two board of trustee candidates.

Organizing & Representation:

College of the Sequoias TA:

COS investigated alternative health benefit policies with the goal to change from current Blue Shield plans to the CVT. A tentative agreement for 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 with increases in salary schedules was achieved.

College of Siskiyou FA:

College of the Siskiyou bargaining is continuing for the 2007-2008 academic year. A strategy session was held to review budget and positions of the district and association.

Legal Case of Interest:

Pocatello Education Association v. Heideman Grant of Certiorari by U.S. Supreme Court

Idaho passed a law prohibiting public employers, including school districts, from conducting payroll deductions from employees that would be used for political activities, including PACs, ballot initiative campaigns, and political parties. The Ninth Circuit ruled this ban an unconstitutional restriction of free speech.

New Legal Representation Cases:

Riverside Community College:

PERB charge alleging unilateral change in employee discipline procedures.

San Joaquin Delta Community College District:

PERB charge alleging unilateral change in salary schedule.

Chaffey Community College District:

Denial of tenure.

Kern Community College District:

Arbitration of denial of Weingarten rights grievance.

San Joaquin Delta Community College District:

Sexual discrimination.

Napa Valley Community College District:

Investigation merits of retaliation case.

NEW STUDY REGARDING CUTS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

A new study entitled, "Cumulative Impact: How cuts to higher education and the Cal Grant program in the recent past, today, and in the near future will affect access and opportunity for California's students" was just released with some interesting facts:

- 100,000 community college students will not be assessed
- 46,000 fewer community college students will be meeting with counselors
- 43,000 fewer community college students in academic trouble will receive follow-up counseling to help them complete their programs
- Students are disproportionately being asked to bear a greater share of their higher education cost
- The state's community colleges have a mandate of open enrollment

CCA Representation at CTA State Council

Candidates declare their candidacy for Higher Education for CTA State Council Representation. The following candidates have filed a declaration of candidacy application for the following seats: HE-3: Caroline Dawson from Merced College, HE-5: Robert Robertson from Palo Verde College and Michael Smith from Victor Valley College, HE-9: Lynette Nyaggah and Mary Ann Pacheco both from Rio Hondo College.

The following CCA/CFA/ICCUFA members will be representing California's higher education at the NEA Representative Assembly this summer. It is the largest representative in the world. *Paula Jacobs, Jim Weir, Cecil E. Canton, Ann Shadwick, Joan Sholars, Jan McKissick, Steven Millner, Sherry Miller-White, Theresa Montañó, Leo H. Kirchhoff, Ron Norton Reel, Cecile Bendavid, Gilda Maria Bloom, Dián Dolores Hasson, Lee Haggerty, Phyllis C. Hall, Gus C. Lease, Mary Ann Pacheco, Chaumonde Porterfield-Pyatt, and Nena Tórréz.*

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