

President's Monthly Message NEWS FROM THE FRONT



May, 2008

CCA President Meets With Senator Jack Scott & Assemblyperson Mike Eng

Ron Norton Reel, CCA President had a special meeting with Senator Jack Scott, Chairperson of the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance, and Assemblyperson Mike Eng (Author AB 2277) and discussed the urgency of the financial situation facing community colleges at this time regarding the budget debacle. Both legislators assured him they would be working their hardest to deal with the situation.

CCA Legislation Seeks Complete Tax Backfill for Community Colleges

CCA/CTA Legislation AB 2277 (Eng) seeks to guarantee the approximate \$100 million dollar shortage discovered by over projecting the taxes regarding the real estate revenues that would be collected for 2008. This shortage is in addition to the \$32 million reduction that took place in early January.

These budget cuts arrived in the middle of the academic year and are not automatically backfilled by the State like K-12. All 2.6 million students will suffer. Classes will be closed, programs cancelled, and more than 1,100 faculty members will not be employed when classes are cut.

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!

CCA/CTA Local Chapter President's Conference July 20-25, 2008

All local chapter presidents are invited to a week of training designed just for them.

This year, two CCA strands will take place. One strand will be for first time presidents and the other for returning presidents. In addition, each chapter may send one additional person to the training in a goal to make our local chapters stronger.

The more trained individuals at each chapter will allow for a stronger and healthier work environment for all faculty members and will result in better learning environments for students.

CCA Applauds Landmark Donation for Community College Scholarships

President Ron Norton Reel, representing CCA, was one of a select group of invitees who attended the announcement celebration of an unprecedented commitment of \$70 million from the Bernard Osher Foundation to support private scholarships for California's community college students.

The commitment is made as part of the Osher Initiative for CCC students and represents the single largest gift to a community college system in the nation and one of the largest gifts ever made to higher education.

Incoming Speaker Sets a Three-point Agenda

Assembly Member Karen Bass (D-Los Angeles) says she will work to achieve three major goals; close a budget gap that the governor has pegged at \$20 billion; raise revenues to fund foster children's programs; and reform the state's revenue structure.

Study Finds Latinos are Fastest Growing Group in United States

The U.S. Census Bureau has found that Hispanics are the fastest growing ethnic group, currently comprising 15% of the population. California is one of four “majority minority” states with 57% of its population classified as members of a minority group.

Rising Deficit and Late Budget Could Lead to Summer Cash Crunch

State Controller John Chiang has warned that a budget deadlock and a looming cash flow problem could force the state to undertake high-cost borrowing to cover its costs this summer.

Legislators Push Bill to Implement Two-Tiered Salary System

The Senate has approved (over CTA’s objections) a measure that would allow districts to bargain two-tiered salary schedules with higher pay for teachers in shortage fields. CTA is aiming to defeat SB 1660 by Senator Gloria Romero (D-Los Angeles).

Riverside Community College District Faculty Association Selected

The Riverside CCD Faculty Association has been selected by NEA to participate in focus groups of part-time faculty. The goal is to understand and better represent the issues of part-time faculty.

CTA Case of Interest

Shipp: Teachers Association of Long Beach v. Long Beach Unified School Districts (Superior Court):

A teacher was selected by TALB’s Representative Council to serve as the contract Enforcement Officer for TALB for 2007-2008. The union asked for a leave of absence on her behalf pursuant to Ed Code 44987. The District refused the request, claiming the statute applied only to “elected” officers, and her selection by the Representative Council did not qualify as an “election” because it was not done by a secret ballot and through an at-large process.

The judge ruled that Ms. Shipp was entitled to the leave. In passing Ed Code 44987, the Legislature intended “to allow any legitimately elected officer, (i.e., one selected by open, free, and fair methods) who the organization has decided is necessary to its mission and to its members to take a leave of absence...”

GLS Attorney Glenn Rothner represented Ms. Shipp and TALB.

New Legal Representation Cases

Solano Community College District:

PERB charge alleging unilateral change in transfer policy

Desert Community College District :

District investigation of alleged sexual harassment of co-worker

Mt. San Jacinto Community College District :

Threatened permanent teacher dismissal

Rio Hondo Community College District :

Potential grievance concerning denial of transfer

Negotiations

The San Joaquin Delta College TA has been certified to fact-finding for contract year 2008.

Trainings

Citrus College FA:

The Citrus College Faculty members gaining training regarding Member Benefits.

Rio Hondo College FA:

The Rio Hondo Executive Board received grievance training.

Palo Verde Community College Association:

Palo Verde College interested members attended a sexual harassment prevention presentation by the CTA legal Department.

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