



THE LEAGUE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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GOVERNOR’S PROPOSED BUDGET TO BE RELEASED THIS WEEK

The Governor will present his State of the State message at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, January 9th, with his proposed budget available to the press and the public on Wednesday, January 10th.

LEGISLATURE BEGINS 2007-2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The December 4, 2006 swearing-in ceremonies marked the start of the 2007-2008 Legislative Session. The introduction of bills officially began with the opening ceremonies; over 185 pieces of legislation (mostly spot bills) have been introduced. This session marks the largest class of new legislators -- 36 in the Assembly and 12 in the Senate, including 34 “rookies” and 14 moving from one house to the other. Ten “rookies” will chair legislative committees.

Meetings are scheduled this week on two bills which will affect community colleges – one by Jack Scott on accountability for the higher education segments; and another to discuss concurrent enrollment students who are subject to non-resident fees.

Key committee chairs have been named:

- Senate Appropriations –Senator Torlakson
- Senate Budget- Senator Ducheny
- Senate Budget Subcommittee #1 (Education) - Senator Scott
- Senate Education –Senator Scott

- Assembly Appropriations-Assembly Member Leno
- Assembly Budget- Assembly Member Laird
- Assembly Budget Subcommittee # 2- Assembly Member Brownley
- Assembly Education – Assembly Member Mullin
- Assembly Higher Education – Assembly Member Portantino
- Assembly Job, Economic Development, and Economy- Assembly Member Arambula
- Assembly Labor- Assembly Member Swanson
- Assembly Local Government- Assembly Member Caballero
- Assembly Public Employment and Retirement- Assembly Member Hernandez

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES FOCUS ON CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The Governor's Office has announced his intention to "expand programs that prepare students for the 21st century economy." Although specific details were not released, the proposed 2007-2008 budget will include \$52 million to improve career technical education programs by enhancing curriculum, increasing teacher recruitment and training, and maximizing bond funds for new facilities. \$20 million of ongoing funds will be for career technical education instruction in high schools and community colleges. Reforms include coordinating career technical education courses so students moving on to the community colleges do not repeat classes; broadening curricula to include technical programs in emerging and traditional career paths; and expanding courses to ensure more students gain employment skills. The remaining \$32 million, which is part of the Proposition 98 settlement, will fund career technical education instruction. These funds are to expand student exposure to career options by building public-private partnerships between industries; expand apprenticeships, internships, and training; and increase professional development for educators by providing teachers and counselors more access to career technical instruction and career counseling training. Courses are to be designed for growth industries such as construction and medical technology. Funds are also targeted to enhance academic relevance by increasing career technical education courses consistent with required classes for UC and CSU. The Governor's Office also announced plans to host a career technical education summit in March 2007.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION NAMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE LIAISON

Dr. Pat Stanley, formerly president of Frederick Community College, MD, is the Department of Education's (ED) new Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Colleges, within the Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE). This important position is designed to advance community college interests within ED and to serve as a point of contact for community college officials in their interactions with the department.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR ANNOUNCES FOCUS

US Representative George Miller (D-CA), the new Chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee has announced that the committee's focus in 2007 will be on strengthening America's middle class by addressing the following issues:

- High quality public schools;
- Affordable colleges;
- A competitive workforce;
- Fairness in the workplace;
- Retirement security; and
- Accountability and responsibility.

The committee plans to reauthorize the No Child Left Behind law while responding to concerns about the law, its implementation and inadequate funding. During the first 100 hours the House plans to cut interest rates in half on college loans for middle class students; then the committee will work on reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, seeking to make postsecondary education more efficient and effective. The committee also intends to: make a college degree affordable for every qualified student by raising the maximum Pell Grant Scholarship; work with colleges and other relevant stakeholders to devise strategies to contain costs; examine the cost effectiveness of the different student loan programs; increase student retention; and analyze ways to make higher education more accountable to the federal government and the taxpayers.

ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES (ARCC/AB 1417) TO BE ISSUED

The System Office staff is currently preparing the final draft of the ARCC report which is scheduled for release on January 22, 2007, and will be making field presentations during the week following that release. These presentations will be January 29, 1 – 3 p.m. at North Orange County CCD Office in Anaheim; and January 30, 1 – 3 p.m. at the System Office in Sacramento. The presentations will include peer group training; upcoming deadlines review (including writing each college's self-assessment response); and responsibilities for the colleges and districts. Further information can be obtained from LeAnn Fong-Batkin at lfongbatkin@cccco.edu or (916) 327-5886.

STAFFING CHANGES

- Michael Claire, who has served as vice-president of instruction at College of San Mateo, has been named president of the college, effective January 1, 2007;
- Gerry Fisher, vice president of student services at Solano College, has been appointed interim superintendent/president, replacing Paulette Perfumo;
- Linda Lacy, vice-president of student services at Riverside College, is the new interim president, replacing Dan Castro;
- Richard Duran, president of the Desert Vista Campus of Pima CCD for the last three years, will become the new president at Oxnard College on March 1.