



THE LEAGUE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) Issues Annual Budget Analysis

The League’s second Budget Update is attached.

Legislation Introduced

Much legislation is still in “spot” form but there are a number of substantive bills in print, including:

- AB 100 (Nuñez) – \$9.08 billion education bond including \$1.5 billion for community colleges, for the 2008 ballot;
- AB 286 (Cook) and SB 268 (McClintock) – Repeal of “AB 540” provisions;
- AB 314 (Portantino) – Community college campus-based financial aid;
- AB 1409 (Portantino) – Loosens restrictions on concurrent enrollment;
- SB 160 (Cedillo) – Establishes the California “Dream Act” to expand eligibility for financial aid to “AB 540” students;
- SB 325 (Scott) – Postsecondary education accountability legislation;
- SB 413 (Scott) – Credit apportionment for inmate education;
- SB 614 (Simitian) – Expansion of design-build to all community colleges;
- SB 946 (Scott) – Community college early assessment pilot.

Campaign for College Opportunity Sponsors Legislation

SB 890 — New Deal for Middle Schoolers: “Study Hard and We’ll Save You a Spot in College.” That’s the bargain offered to middle school students in SB 890, new legislation by Senator Jack Scott (D-Pasadena), Chair of the Senate Education Committee, who pledged to champion its passage this year. An accompanying report, [Early College Commitment](#), outlines the positive benefits of the proposal for students, schools and the state.

Introduced with bipartisan support, SB 890 would renew the promise made in the state’s 1960 Master Plan for Higher Education: that every qualified student will have the opportunity to attend a community college or university. Principal co-authors include Senator Mark Wyland

(R-Carlsbad), Vice-Chair, Senate Education Committee; and Assemblyman Anthony Portantino (D-Pasadena), Chair, Assembly Higher Education Committee; with Assembly members Berryhill (R-Modesto) and Torrico (D-Newark) as co-authors.

The Campaign for College Opportunity is also the sponsor of AB 668 (Portantino), which would enact the community college student Federal and State Financial Aid Opportunity Act, to increase student access to financial aid.

Upcoming Legislative Hearings

- March 6 - Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2 on Education Finance- Overview Hearing of K-12 and Higher Education – Chancellor Drummond will testify on the community college budget;
- March 13 - Assembly Higher Education Committee- AB 152 (Beall): Prepaid Tuition Plan; AB 175 (Price):Cal Grant B awards: access costs; AB 302 (De La Torre): Cal Grant B entitlement awards;
- March 14 -Senate Education Committee- SB 160 (Cedillo) California Dream Act;
- March 21- Joint Hearing Senate Education and Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #1 on Education- Higher Education Executive Compensation;
- March 27 -Assembly Higher Education Committee-AB 262 (Coto): Public Postsecondary Education: credit card marketing; AB 365 (Portantino): Postsecondary Education: Task Force on Workforce Needs (CPEC-sponsored); AB 384 (Portantino): Firefighters.

Assembly Higher Education Committee Holds Hearing on Student Success

The Assembly held a hearing last week on the latest “Shulock Report” (*Rules of the Game*) and heard responses from the System Office and organizational representatives. While the report’s author continues to assert her interest in assisting community colleges, community college representatives responded that: the report misses the complex mission of the colleges and proposes simplistic solutions which are not necessarily related to the identified problems; the report ignores activities already underway in the system; student behavior is a better measure of intent to obtain a degree than checking a box regarding intent upon entry; and the rules for assessment and placement, established 20 years ago, are under review this month before the Board of Governors to determine if changes are warranted.

CPEC Member Named

George (Wiley) Nickel III, an attorney and rancher from Dos Palos, has been appointed to the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) for a term to expire December 31, 2011. Nickel is a Democrat.

Vice Chancellor for Finance and Facilities Planning Named

Erik Skinner, formerly assistant secretary for fiscal policy for the Office of the Secretary for Education since 2001, and a fiscal policy analyst for the Legislative Analysts’ Office from 1998 to 2001, has been appointed vice chancellor for the Finance and Facilities Planning Division of the System Office. He replaces Robert Turnage who is a consultant for MGT.

New Reports Issued This Month:

America's Perfect Storm: Three Forces Changing Our Nation's Future. Irwin Kirsch, Henry Braun, Kentaro Yamamoto, and Andrew Sum. Educational Testing Service. January 2007. This report can be downloaded at: www.ets.org/stormreport or purchased from ETS for \$15.

The three elements of concern which comprise the “perfect storm” are: 1) The widening disparity between age groups and ethnicities with older adults and Anglos showing far higher literacy and numeric abilities than those who are younger, Black, or Hispanic; 2) “Seismic changes” in the economy which have resulted in new sources of wealth, novel patterns of international trade and a shift in the balance between capital and labor which has resulted in fewer manufacturing jobs and two-thirds of the job growth in positions requiring college education; and 3) The demographic changes which reflect high immigration, and higher birth rates combined with relatively lower education levels for Hispanics. This report argues that it is essential that we invest in policies that will solve the challenges associated with inequalities, or there is little chance that economic opportunities will improve among key segments of our population.

Staffing Changes:

- Jon Tyler, vice president of human resources at Mt San Jacinto, has been named interim superintendent/president, replacing Mark Zakovic;
- John Romo, superintendent/president of Santa Barbara CCD, has announced that he will retire at the conclusion of the 2007-08 academic year;
- Greg Sandoval, vice president of student affairs at Southwestern CCD, has replaced Neil Yoneji as interim CEO.