



# ***THE LEAGUE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE***

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### **Study Released on Closing the Healthcare Workforce Gap**

A study on the healthcare workforce gap was released by the Campaign for College Opportunity. The study, funded by Kaiser Permanente and the California Wellness Foundation and conducted by Health Workforce Solutions LLC, offers both policy recommendations for specific healthcare training programs, as well as overall educational performance. It also provides a comprehensive view of the healthcare workforce, including nursing and the other sixty percent of the health care workforce known as “allied health.” These technical occupations have educational requirements ranging from certificates and Associate Degrees to postgraduate education. Seventy-five percent of occupations analyzed face current shortages of graduates. The study found that California lags behind the rest of the nation in providing an adequate healthcare workforce. A copy of the report can be downloaded at the following link: [www.collegecampaign.org/healthworkforce/](http://www.collegecampaign.org/healthworkforce/)

A briefing on California’s healthcare workforce has been scheduled:

The Healthcare Workforce Briefing (hosted with California Labor and Workforce Undersecretary Stephanie Leach)  
 December 11, 2007; 10am-12pm  
 California Labor and Workforce Development Agency  
 801 K St., 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Sacramento, CA

### **The Legislative Special Session Continues**

With limited formal action on the topics of water and healthcare reform, private meetings continue between legislative leaders and the governor (the “Big Five”.) The Assembly Health Committee met in November to hear from representatives of the governor’s office on their health care proposal, as well as legislative vehicles for competing health care proposals of the Assembly Democratic and Republican Caucuses. The Assembly and Senate floor sessions originally set for the week of November 26, 2007, were postponed until the first week of December. The Assembly is scheduling floor sessions on Dec. 5th and 6th to address special session legislation. The Senate also postponed its floor session scheduled tentatively for Monday,

November 26, 2007, to consider water legislation. Talks continue, but there is no agreement on a water bond.

### **Legislative Interim Hearings Scheduled for December**

There are two interim education hearings scheduled for December:

1. December 13<sup>th</sup> – Assembly Education Committee – Room 4202, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
The focus will be on K-12 school facilities (AB 100, K- University Bond Act – Mullin).
2. December 13<sup>th</sup> – Senate Select Committee on High School Graduation – Room 4203, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. The focus will be on preventing high school dropouts.

### **Legislation to be Proposed in 2008**

Following her interim hearing on the Diablo Valley College grade changing issue, Assemblymember Mary Hayashi has indicated that she will introduce legislation requiring the CCC Chancellor to review grade management at a minimum of six California community colleges annually.

### **Transfer Rate Hearing Held in Sacramento**

On November 14th, the Senate Select Committee on College and University Admissions and Outreach, chaired by Senator Padilla, held a hearing on transfer rates. The Senator stressed that his focus in the committee would be on the community colleges since they are the primary engines for educating the state's youth and he continually questioned witnesses regarding changes needed. Patrick Perry and Jeff Spano represented the System Office, while Jane Patton (ASCCC) and Roberta Delgado (Government Relations liaison for the Transfer Center Directors) addressed the Senator in the public comments portion. Testimony by all community college representatives was well received.

Based on the questions of Senators Padilla, Ducheny and Steinberg, focus this year may be on:

- 1) Determining the connection between CTE and PPIC's research citing the need for more highly-educated workers;
- 2) More demands for accountability, possibly based on accountability systems such as Florida and Texas which were cited as the best in the country;
- 3) Requiring measurable student learning outcomes;
- 4) Setting state priorities regarding, for example, numeric goals regarding the number of transfers sought and the preferred participation rate in higher education;
- 5) Standardizing curriculum to ease transfer;
- 6) Providing differential funding for specific areas such as nursing and/or funding based on outcomes.

In the community college testimony, emphasis was on the number of students who may not be ready for college work and the concomitant need for basic skills, as well as the "desperate need" for more counselors, designated funds for transfer centers, and the importance of strong relationships between students and counselors.

## **Research Reports**

*Career Technical Education: Options for High School Success*, Little Hoover Commission, Sacramento, November 2007.

This report recommends that California create and implement a strategy for CTE, in the short term, to evaluate, expand, and replicate proven programs in districts that demonstrate they can support them; then, once more research is in hand, use it to build a long-term, evidence-based strategy that fully integrates academically rigorous career technical education into general education programs. As the state invests more in CTE, it also must measure the outcomes of CTE programs to ensure that best practices are replicated statewide. The new specific funding should be used to expand CTE curriculum that meets the high standards adopted by the state. Course-sequencing from high schools to community colleges or other postsecondary education must be enhanced so that all CTE students can progress along an established path. And while the new categorical funding can improve and expand CTE, the state should simplify and integrate CTE funding. A data system to measure student participation and performance in CTE programs, and one to determine whether CTE participation increases academic proficiency, must be developed. The report and other recommendations can be found at:

<http://www.lhc.ca.gov/lhcdir/189/Report189.pdf>

## **CEO Changes**

- Jim Meznik, chancellor of the Ventura CCD since 2004, will be taking an extended leave of absence from Jan 14 through March 28, 2008, to spend time with his family. Bill Studt, the district's vice chancellor of human resources will serve as interim chancellor during that time.
- Betty Inclan, associate superintendent and vice president for academic affairs at Allan Hancock College, has been appointed president of Berkeley City College, effective January 1, 2008.
- Richard McCullough, president of Saddleback College since 2004, will retire in June, 2008.
- Tyree Wieder, president of Los Angeles Valley College since 1994, will retire in June, 2008.
- William Andrews, president of Bakersfield College since 2005, will retire July 1, 2008.