



# ***THE LEAGUE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE***

**OCTOBER 3, 2011**

ON THE WEB: [WWW.CCLEAGUE.ORG](http://WWW.CCLEAGUE.ORG) > GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

## ***IN THIS UPDATE:***

- League Supported Legislation Still Awaiting Action on Governor’s Desk ..... 1
- Recent Gubernatorial Actions..... 1
- Budget Update ..... 1
- Nursing Programs ..... 2
- Higher Education Executive Compensation ..... 2
- Federal Update ..... 3

### **League Supported Legislation Still Awaiting Action on Governor’s Desk**

The community college elections bill, AB 684 (Block), AB 743 (Block): Community Colleges: Common Assessment System and AB 1056 (Fong): E-transcripts are still awaiting signature on Governor Brown’s Desk. The Governor has until midnight on October 9<sup>th</sup> to sign or veto bills.

A LeagueAlert with sample letters was sent out on September 12<sup>th</sup> requesting support letters on these bills and others. Please send letters to the Governor ASAP if you have not already done so. Please click [here](#) or go to the League’s website at [www.ccleague.org](http://www.ccleague.org) for the LeagueAlert.

### **Recent Gubernatorial Actions**

Governor Jerry Brown has signed the following legislation:

- AB 32 X by Assembly member Robert Blumenfield – Education Finance: Delays implementation date of community college fee increases when budget trigger pulled.
- AB 636 by Assembly member Stephen T. Knight – Military Service: Benefits: Requires CCC, CSU, and UC to refund enrollment fees of deployed members of the armed forces.
- SB 940 by the Senate Education Committee – Education: Omnibus technical clean up of Education Codes, reaffirms SB 1440 transfer students in CSU enrollment.

### **Budget Update**

The League has established a webpage: [www.ccleague.net](http://www.ccleague.net) for the most current updates on California’s budget. Some of the topics on the webpage are: community college budget talking points, a resolution in support of California Community Colleges Budget Priorities and Principles, and the budget impact on each district.

## **Nursing Programs**

The Joint Hearing of Assembly Select Committee on Community Colleges and Assembly Business, Professions, and Consumer Protection Committee, chaired by Assembly Member Hayashi, was held on September 27th regarding the nursing profession. The hearing included discussions involving community college nursing programs.

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) representative Paul Steenhausen provided an overview of nursing programs in California's community colleges. Key points and issues identified by the LAO were:

- CCC nursing programs account for over half of California's nursing programs.
- CCC nursing graduations increased 80% between 2000- 2010.
- Base budget cuts in 2009-2010 expected to reduce CCC completion in out years
- Applicants to CCC nursing programs exceed available slots. CCC nursing programs receive 27,000 eligible applicants for 7,500 first-year slots. CCC are only able to accommodate less than 30% of applications.
- The attrition rate for CCC nursing program remains a concern. Academic failure is a main attrition factor. Nearly 20% of CCC students fail to complete degree. Attrition rate for both CSU and UC is 6 % respectively; with 7 % attrition for private programs. CCC attrition rates range from 0%- 50%.
- CCC and CSU are on track to implement AB 1295, legislation passed in 2009 to streamline articulation between community college and CSU nursing program.

The LAO identified the following issues for consideration by the Legislature:

- Demand for nurses will continue to increase due to the Federal Health Care Reform.
- Legislature should implement additional measures to reduce CCC attrition rates. Condition continued receipt of state grant funding either on (1) keeping attrition rates below specified levels (suggested 15%), or (2) implement a merit-based selection process authorized by prior legislation.
- Legislature should continue to monitor implementation of CCC and CSU articulation of nursing programs.
- Need for increased oversight of other health training programs in CCC. Legislature should require outcomes-related data to evaluate allied health programs.

## **Higher Education Executive Compensation**

On September 28th the Senate Education Committee held an informational hearing regarding executive compensation policy and practices at the UC and CSU. Increases in student fees and costs have decreased affordability for many students, subsequently shutting them out of higher education in California. With these concerns, the committee addressed the Legislature's role in executive compensation, oversight responsibility to ensure state goals are met, and accountability necessary to ensure higher education is affordable for Californians. Senator Lowenthal opened the session by noting the hearing's discussion would be limited to UC and CSU, even though similar issues do exist for community colleges. However, Lowenthal explained that the agenda for the hearing would not address community colleges because local boards are elected to

provide oversight and accountability to local voters. One could conclude from Lowenthal's ending comments that future discussions may include all of California's public higher education segments. In closing, Lowenthal summarized it is unclear whether the goals of the segments for the hiring and compensating of executives actually fit with the goals of the State (higher education affordability and workforce needs). Other issues identified were (1) inclusion of non-state funds, supplied by foundations in compensation packages of executives, (2) responsibility and criteria for "comparability" data considered in recruitment and compensation packages in a post-CPEC era, and (3) performance component in compensation packages.

## **Federal Update**

The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) reports the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) will be hosting two web-chat sessions for the public to provide feedback on the first round of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant program competition. ETA invites interested individuals to participate in either of the TAACCCT Grant Program public comment sessions, scheduled for:

- Tuesday, October 4, 2011 3:00-4:00pm EDT
- Thursday, October 6, 2011 3:00-4:00pm EDT

To join the public comment session, please use the following link to access the session you are attending: <http://www.dol.gov/dol/chat.htm>. Note that this link is for both sessions.

The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) reports that on September 29th, the House passed a stopgap funding measure that continues to fund the federal government until October 4th. The current fiscal year expired on Friday, September 30th, and with no long-term spending deal in place, the government once again faced a potential shutdown. This five-day extension will give the House additional time to consider a longer Senate-passed funding bill that would expire on November 18th or move a different bill for Senate consideration.

In addition, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education released a draft of their long-anticipated FY 2012 appropriations bill. The bill includes \$153.4 billion in discretionary spending, which is \$4 billion below FY 2011 enacted levels but significantly higher than what we likely would have seen under "Ryan" proposed budgetary levels. The bill maintains the maximum funding level for the Pell Grant at \$5,550, yet it makes significant eligibility changes to the program.

The changes proposed include: eliminating the eligibility for less than half-time students; reduces the maximum full-time semesters from 18 down to 12; changes scenarios where one may list zero expected family contribution to \$15,000; and changes the income calculation and income protection allowance. Higher education institutional aid would be significantly cut with elimination of funding for Predominately Black Institutions, Asian American Pacific Islander Institutions, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions, Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions, and Tribal Colleges. Hispanic-Serving Institutions and Historically Black Colleges and Universities saw large cuts with reductions of \$87 million and \$85 million, respectively.

Other education programs of note include the following:

- Career, Technical, and Adult Education programs saw a minimal reduction of \$2 million, bringing the funding level to \$1.123 billion.
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants and Federal Work Study were level funded at \$736 million and \$978.5 million.
- TRIO and GEAR UP were level funded at \$826 million and \$303 million.

The draft bill proposes significant cuts to Department of Labor programs, with changes over 2011 enacted levels:

- Workforce Innovation Fund is eliminated.
- WIA Adult Training sees a rescission in 2011 advanced funding and a 2012 level that nets a \$563 million reduction.
- WIA Dislocated Worker Assistance sees a rescission in 2011 advanced funding and a 2012 level that nets a 90% cut of \$962 million reduction.
- WIA Youth Training is reduced by 50% at \$412 million.

Additionally, the bill prohibits the use of funds to implement Gainful Employment and State Authorization regulations. The bill is not expected to be marked up by the Appropriations Committee, but these funding levels may be seen in a House omnibus bill later this fall.