



THE LEAGUE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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2009 Community College Legislative Program

The Board of Governors annually adopts a Community College Legislative Program to guide the advocacy efforts of the System Office for the two year legislative session and establishes System priorities for sponsorship of legislation during the legislative year. The 2009 Community College Legislative Program will be presented to the Consultation Council in November and to the BOGCCC for action in January 2009.

Guiding principles to be followed:

- The BOGCCC Legislative Principles should be followed;
- System Office should carry legislative proposals that are not divisive between groups within the system;
- There should be general agreement on proposed legislative proposals;
- The legislative proposals should meet at least one of the following: (1) be part of the system budget proposal, (2) provide an important clarification to existing policy, or (3) address an immediate problem needing correction;
- Political viability.

The Legislative Task Force met on October 15 for preliminary review of legislative proposals prepared and presented by the System Office which were then organized by Strategic Plan issue areas. The Task Force met again October 30 and recommended the following proposals for Consultation and possible sponsorship:

- Property Tax shortfall backfill and continuous appropriation authorization;
- Reduction/ Elimination of Reporting Requirements;
- Foster Youth- Determination of Residency;
- Captioning for Students with Disabilities

The Task Force discussed possible strategies for issues identified to have traction in the legislature. These included:

- Veterans: services and support;

- Green jobs: tax credits and training;
- Textbooks: rental program

Community College League of California's Annual Conference

The Community College League of California's Annual Conference will be held at the Hilton Anaheim on November 20-22. One of conference sessions is: Brown Act Update (SB 1732): Changes in the Way We Communicate. For full details on registration and conference topics, please go to: <http://www.ccleague.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3363>

Governor Schwarzenegger's Small Business and Entrepreneurial Conference on November 18-19, Renaissance Hotel / LAX

Small business leaders have been working in groups to develop policy recommendations for the conference, where groups will caucus to finalize policy recommendations on topics including: AB32 and Energy, Access to Capital, Entrepreneurial Encouragement, Healthcare, Innovation & Technology, Procurement, Regulatory Reform, Taxation, Transportation, and Workforce Development and Education.

The workforce policy topics identified by the working groups included:

- Evaluating and changing the process for curriculum content standards;
- Improving career path counseling that incorporates all education options;
- Standardizing community college teacher qualifications;
- Implementing and marketing a certificate recognized by small business for an evaluation of skills for work readiness.

The following are workforce policy issues and recommendations to be discussed at the conference:

ISSUE: How can the State expand CTE programs to provide small business with the skilled workforce needed immediately to make California competitive in the global economy and to strengthen the state economy for the long term?

RECOMMENDATION: The State should strengthen the capacity of colleges to respond to emerging labor market needs and better prepare students for competition in a global economy by expanding the Governor's Career Technical Education Initiative to \$48,000,000.

ISSUE: How can the State aid small business owners in hiring work-ready employees?

RECOMMENDATION: The State should implement and effectively market a small business-recognized certificate for a true evaluation of skills including: career decisionmaking, using labor market information, job seeking skills, world of work knowledge, employability skills, and basic life skills, so employers can better ascertain work readiness.

For more information, please go to: www.sba.ca.gov

Governor Schwarzenegger Issues Executive Order (# S-12-08): Establishing New State Commission to Overhaul the State's Tax Structure

On October 30, 2008, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed Executive Order S-12-08 which created the bipartisan "Commission on the 21st Century Economy" to re-examine and modernize California's out-of-date revenue laws that contribute to our uneven state budget cycles. This 12-member commission, appointed by the Governor and legislative leaders, will suggest changes that will result in a revenue stream that is more stable and reflective of our economy. This long-term action will help avoid the extreme revenue swings that have caused crippling deficits while maintaining a fair and equitable revenue structure that will ensure our continued competitiveness and attraction to employers and workers. Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, who been advocating for such a commission, called the commission "a key part of the economic stability California badly needs."

For more information, please go to: <http://gov.ca.gov/index.php?/press-release/10927>

Governor Schwarzenegger Announces Intention to Call the Legislature into Special Session Scheduled for November 5th

Governor Schwarzenegger announced an intention to call the Legislature into special session on November 5th. The Senate President pro Tempore responded by tentatively scheduling an organizational session of the Senate for 4pm on November 5th. On October 27th, the governor and legislative leaders emerged from a meeting in his office to announce that a lame duck special session would be called to tackle the state's rapidly developing budget crisis. The current year spending plan is now estimated to be short far greater than the \$3 billion discussed only two weeks ago, and most budget watchers inside and outside the building place the shortfall at greater than \$10 billion.

The special session will consider both revenue/tax increases and spending cuts, although there is clearly no agreement between party leaders that were locked in a historic stalemate only five weeks ago. With a dramatic drop in tax revenues now anticipated because of the stock market, the state's minimum guaranteed funding under Proposition 98 is also dropping, opening the door to deep cuts to school funding, including community colleges. Most concerning is the state's roughly \$15 billion in personal income tax revenue anticipated from taxes on stock options and capital gains, which will be severely reduced in the current market environment.

Also on the agenda for the session beginning next week will be an economic stimulus, as lawmakers look for ways to encourage a rapid economic recovery for California. Community college advocates will be arguing that one of the most important strategies the state can use is to keep the state's job training engine moving by funding the existing enrollment in community colleges.

Governor Schwarzenegger's call for a special session was echoed by Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, who said, "Given the dire straights that the state is in – and not just the state because we know we're experiencing these dramatic fluctuations in the stock market on a daily basis – that we really can't wait. We can't wait until a new class comes in. And, so we do have to get to work right away."

Board of Governors Appointments

• Scott Himmelstein, 51, of San Diego, has been appointed to the California Community College System Board of Governors. He has served as the director of the Center for Education Policy and Law at the University of San Diego since 2007. Himmelstein also currently serves as president of the William D. Lynch Foundation for Children and previously held the same position from 1990 to 2005. Himmelstein served as the deputy secretary and chief of staff for the Office of the Secretary of Education (OSE) from 2005 to 2007 and was acting secretary from 2006 to 2007. Prior to joining OSE, he served as chair and chief executive officer of the National Even Start Association. Himmelstein is a Republican.

• Geoffrey L. Baum, 45, of Pasadena (Pasadena CCD Trustee), has been appointed to the California Community Colleges Board of Governors. Since 2001, he has served as the assistant dean for the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California. Baum worked for C-SPAN as executive producer from 1999 to 2000 and as a senior producer from 1989 to 1993. From 1994 to 1999, he served as the assistant vice president of marketing and public relations at Claremont McKenna College. Baum was the acting senior editor for public radio's Marketplace in 1994 and was an editorial assistant for the Army, Navy and Air Force Times from 1986 to 1987. He was a substitute English teacher for the Huntington Beach High School District in 1989. Baum is a member and past president of the Pasadena Area Community College District Governing Board and serves on the Armory Center for the Arts Board of Directors and Claremont McKenna Alumni Association Board of Directors. Additionally, he is a member of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education and the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, Non-fiction Peer Group. Baum is a Republican.

Recent Research Reports

Serving Former Foster Youth in California Community Colleges: Successes, Challenges, and Recommendations. Center for Student Success. October 2008.

<http://www.rpgroup.org/documents/FosterYouthReport.pdf>

Every year, approximately 4,000 youth "age out" or "emancipate" from California's foster care system upon reaching the age of 18. Community colleges play a critical role for the majority of emancipated youth pursuing higher education. In an effort to provide an overview of how community colleges in California are currently meeting the needs of current and former foster youth, this report:

- Provides a better understanding of the needs of emancipated foster youth enrolled at community colleges;
- Examines successful responses to student needs from community colleges statewide;
- Identifies challenges faced by community colleges in meeting student needs; and
- Makes recommendations as to how programs can be enhanced, expanded, and improved.

Staffing Changes

- Chancellor Helen Benjamin was appointed by Congressman George Miller to the Congressional Financial Aid Advisory Committee. She is the first California Community College representative to ever serve in this role and the only one representing community colleges in the country.
- Francisco Estrada was appointed to be the Policy Director for the Campaign for College Opportunity, based in Sacramento. Francisco comes to the Campaign with twenty years of experience in local, state, and federal government and an additional nine years in the non-profit sector, most recently with MALDEF.
- Lisa Waits, vice-president for student services at Solano CCD, is the new interim, effective October 6th.