



# ***THE LEAGUE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE***

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### **2007- 2008 State and Federal Legislative Program**

The Legislative Program Task Force of the Consultation Council met on October 5th and October 24th, to review proposals submitted for the 2008 Community College Legislative Program. Proposals were submitted by the System Office, community college districts, and organizations. The Task Force reviewed the 2007 Legislative Program, 2007 legislation, System budget change proposals (BCP) which may require legislation, and new proposals and concepts. The Task Force also discussed continued support for pending 2007 legislative proposals still requiring passage, including the Field Act (SB 588), authorization to fund inmate education at the credit level (SB 413), early college commitment (SB 890), early college assessment (SB 946), and concurrent enrollment (AB 1409). In addition, the Task Force considered proposed BCPs requiring implementing legislation (including the School-to-College Bridge), expanding access to PELL grants (expanding on AB 668), open education resources centers (AB 577), the Transfer Initiative, high tech services, matriculation restoration, accountability (ARCC), and the Field Act. Additional items were submitted by community college organizations relative to the implementation of CSU transfer LDTP, transfer centers, and college safety/student discipline. Task Force members also requested that the Legislative Program include a placeholder for non-credit issues that may need to be addressed or technical changes necessary to implement the career development and college preparation program. Task Force and System Office recommendations will be reviewed by Consultation Council for BOGCC action in January 2008.

### **The DREAM Act**

The U.S. Senate recently failed to pass legislation to enact the DREAM Act when a procedural vote to evoke “cloture”, necessary to allow a floor vote on legislation, was rejected by a vote of 52-44, short of the 60 required votes. The bill would have allowed young people brought to the United States as children by their undocumented immigrant parents to gain legal status, provided that

they attended school or entered the military. The vote was seen as a test of the Senate's appetite for pursuing an immigration overhaul on a piecemeal basis, as opposed to the comprehensive approach that failed during this summer. The procedural vote would have allowed debate to begin. On the state front, Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed SB 1 which would have enabled qualifying undocumented students to apply for two types of non-competitive state financial aid, the Cal Grant High School Entitlement Grant and community college fee waivers. In his veto message, Schwarzenegger indicated that extending aid to the students was an imprudent strain on the General Fund – although estimates pegged new budget allocations under SB 1 at \$1.9 million or .018% of General Fund monies. SB 1 was supported by the League, along with the University of California, the California State University, and the California Student Aid Commission.

Passage of the DREAM Act requires local college advocacy targeted at both the federal and state levels. The League continues advocacy leadership for passage of the DREAM Act.

### **Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) Survey Released**

The PPIC has released its latest survey entitled, “Californians and Higher Education.” It finds that most Californians believe that a college education is necessary for individual success but they also believe it is out of reach for many. A majority say that many residents who are qualified don’t have the opportunity to attend college. Two-thirds believe that the California Community College system, CSU, and UC are doing good or excellent jobs and they give much higher quality ratings to higher education than to K-12 education. Most Californians do not believe that higher education is sufficiently funded; and they support spending more to keep college tuition and fees low, even if it means less money for other programs. The full study is available at: <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=778>

### **Select Committee on College and University Admissions and Outreach- Informational Hearing on Transfer**

Senator Padilla, chair of the Senate Select Committee on College and University Admissions and Outreach, will hold an informational hearing on November 14th at the State Capitol, from 9am-12 noon in room 112, on the topic of “Community College Transfer Rates.” The Senate Select Committee on College and University Admissions and Outreach is charged with review of the State’s commitment of ensuring that all capable and willing students have access to a quality higher education. Committee members are Senators Padilla, Denham, Ducheny, Ridley-Thomas, Scott, and Steinberg. According to staff responsible for planning the agenda, the purpose of the hearing is to begin dialogue on transfer issues and means to increase transfer rates, options and solutions, and collaborative efforts for better transfer rates. The committee will hear from researchers, the Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO), and representatives from the UC, CSU, independent colleges, and the community colleges. Committee staff contact is Gustavo Arroyo, (916) 651-4020 or [gustavo.arroyo@sen.ca.gov](mailto:gustavo.arroyo@sen.ca.gov).

### **Textbook Summit Scheduled for November 30th**

The System Office, in conjunction with the Community College Committee of the California Association of College Stores, is organizing a summit regarding the rising costs of textbooks for community college students. The summit will be the “kick-off” meeting for an Action Planning Group to address these costs as a critical affordability issue in implementing the system Strategic

Plan goals. It is scheduled for November 30th, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at Chabot College. The agenda includes an overview of significant issues, current practices and initiatives to lower costs, as well as development of an action plan to pursue strategies to determine what colleges can do locally, what the system can do to support college efforts, and what needs to be addressed in state or federal policy.

### **New Reports Released**

- 1. Shulock, Nancy and Colleen Moore, *Invest in Success: How Finance Policy Can Increase Student Success at California’s Community Colleges*. California State University Institute for Higher Education Leadership and Policy, Sacramento, October 2007.**

This companion report to “Beyond the Open Door: Increasing Student Success in the California Community Colleges,” finds that finance policies do not provide the community colleges in California with the resources they need, or the freedom to use their resources, to fulfill their multiple missions. Further, finance policies in many cases undermine important state priorities that must be accomplished if the state is to have an educated society and workforce now and in the future. The report summarizes finance policy reforms being considered around the country and offers a new model for thinking about how to invest in success. The full report is available at: <http://www.csus.edu/ihe/Pages/publications.html>

- 2. Karp, Melinda; Juan Calcagno, Katherine Hughes, Dong Jeong, and Thomas R. Bailey, *The Postsecondary Achievement of Participants in Dual Enrollment: An Analysis of Student Outcomes in Two States*, Community College Research Center, Columbia University Teachers College, October 2007.**

This report which used statistical methods to examine the outcomes of dual enrollment participation (known as “concurrent enrollment” in California) in Florida and New York City found that dual enrollment: increased students’ likelihood of earning a high school diploma; increased the likelihood of students initially enrolling in a four-year institution. For students enrolled in postsecondary education, dual enrollment participation was positively related to their likelihood of enrolling full-time; of persisting to a second semester and often to a bachelor’s degree; and to have significantly higher postsecondary GPAs one year after high school graduation. In addition, the study found that male and low-income students benefited more from dual enrollment than their peers.

Based on these results, the authors recommend the following policies: reduction of restrictive eligibility requirements for dual enrollment, creation of more dual enrollment sequences, expansion of outreach to underserved populations and free tuition for low-income dual-enrollment students. Additional information on this report is available at: <http://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/Publication.asp?UID=402>

### **Proposition 92 – The Community College Initiative**

The Yes on Prop 92 website is now accessible. To visit the website please go to: [www.prop92yes.com](http://www.prop92yes.com)

## **Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger Appoints New Commission Member**

The Governor recently appointed Lawrence T. Geraty, Ph.D., of Riverside, to the California Postsecondary Education Commission. Most recently, Dr. Geraty served as president and chief executive officer for La Sierra University from 1993 to 2007. He previously was president of Atlantic Union College from 1985 to 1993 and an archeology professor for Andrews University from 1966 to 1985. Prior to that, he served as a minister for the Southeastern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists from 1962 to 1966. Dr. Geraty is the former president of the American Schools of Oriental Research and is a member of the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities. He is also a member and former chair of the Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce.

## **CEO CHANGES**

- Michael Viera, superintendent/president of Citrus College since 2003 has announced that he will retire in June 2008.
- Doug Treadway, superintendent/president of Ohlone CCD since 2003 will retire in January 2008.