



Office of Government Relations

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

February 2015 Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

Budget Trailer Bills Released
February 1st

ACCT 2015 Legislative Summit
February 9th – 12th
Washington, DC

Consultation Council
February 19th
Sacramento, CA

ACCCA Conference
February 25th – 27th
Hyatt Regency, San Francisco Airport

Joint CEO/CCCT Board Meeting
February 27th
Hyatt Regency, San Francisco Airport

Follow bills tracked [here](#).

For important budget updates, click [here](#).

Have an event you would like to highlight? Send event info to:

lizette@ccleague.org or
ryan@ccleague.org.

Update on Sponsored Legislation

Stability Funding — Last month, League staff met with members of ACBO and ACCCA to determine the best stability funding formula for their districts. Many ideas were considered, from a step-down measure where colleges would more gradually lose their enrollment funding to extending the current system of stability from one year to three.

After long discussions with the League's stakeholders and our districts, the CEO Board unanimously voted to go forward with a bill restoring three-year stability to our colleges. To address fiscal concerns, the CEO board added a provision that colleges would need Board of Governors' approval to be eligible for three-year stability. This could ultimately help every district in our state by creating more stable and predictable funding so that any college with serious funding issues outside of its control would have access to this backup mechanism.

Dual Enrollment — The League will launch a major outreach and advocacy campaign in collaboration with the Chancellor's Office to promote passage of the College & Career Access Pathways (CCAP) Act, the bill to reform dual enrollment so that students of all backgrounds can access this effective program. The outreach and advocacy campaign will have three key goals:

- 1) Build an extensive coalition of education stakeholders and community action groups to expand support for dual enrollment.
- 2) Launch a major messaging effort that frames the dialogue in our favor and expands knowledge of the benefits of dual enrollment.
- 3) Convince key legislators, policy committees, and the Department of Finance to approve the College & Career Access Pathways Act (dual enrollment).

Your help and advocacy will be critical to the passage of the CCAP Act! This month supporters will receive an advocacy toolkit which will include a fact sheet, sample letters of support, target organizations, and other key resources to ensure organizations and individuals throughout the state know how important dual enrollment is for ensuring all student have early access to college and career opportunities. To

become more involved, please contact Legislative Advocate Lizette Navarette at lizette@cleague.org.

Good Budget News for California's Community Colleges

Governor Brown's proposed 2015-16 budget is the best in recent years for our system. He made substantial investments in student success, equity and access while respecting our colleges' need to make appropriate decisions for the uniqueness of districts. It is clear that Governor Brown identifies with our mission while also understanding the growing costs facing our districts. The budget bills containing the Governor's proposals are AB 103 (Weber) and SB 69 (Leno).

It's important to note that, while this is a good budget year for community colleges, there are a number of fiscal challenges colleges will face in the next several years. They include a sharp increase in employer contributions to CalPERS/CalSTRS, the sunset of Proposition 30 revenues, lack of state support for facilities and the absence of either a property tax or general shortfall backfill. Both the Community College Chancellor's Office and the Department of Finance have encouraged community colleges to spend their budget augmentations wisely and prudently, given these considerations.

For an extended analysis of the budget proposal, click [here](#). The League's positions on Governor Brown's budget can be found by clicking [here](#).

The Legislative Analyst's Office is expected to release his reaction to Governor Brown's budget proposal very soon. The League will be providing information regarding the analysis as soon as it is available. Additionally, details regarding the Governor's budget trailer bills will be released by February 1st. Information on the trailer will also be provided upon its release.

Governor Brown's Budget Augmentation Proposal – Line Items

Item	2014-15 Enacted Budget	2015-16 System Budget Augmentation	2015-16 January Proposed Augmentation
Ongoing Funds			
Cost of Living Adjustment	\$47,300,000 (.85%)	\$125,000,000 (2.10% Stat. COLA)	\$94,400,000 (1.58% Statutory COLA)
Base Allocation Funding/ Rate Increase	No Augmentation	\$55,000,000 (requested in COLA BCP)	\$125,000,000
Enrollment Growth	\$140,400,000 (2.75%)	\$120,000,000	106,900,000 (2%)
Student Success and Support Program (SSSP)	\$100,000,000	\$100,000,000	\$100,000,000
Implementation of Student Equity Plans	\$70,000,000	\$100,000,000	\$100,000,000

Career Development and College Preparation (CDCP) Rate Equalization	2014-15 Budget approved increase starting in 2015-16.	Fully Fund	\$49,000,000
Apprenticeship Programs	No Augmentation	\$7,500,000 (Included under the Categorical Restoration BCP)	\$29,100,000
Mandate Backlogs	Included Under One-Time	Paydown	\$125,000,000 (in budget year funding)
Professional Development	No Augmentation	\$25,000,000	\$125M mandate backlog funding may be used for this purpose.
Funding for Full-Time Faculty	No Augmentation	\$70,000,000	\$125M mandate backlog funding may be used for this purpose.
Restoration of Categorical Programs	\$30,000,000 for DSPS	\$115,000,000 Requested to restore categorical programs to pre-recession levels.	\$29,100,000 for Apprenticeship
One-Time Funds			
Career Technical Education Enhancement Fund	\$50,000,000	\$25,000,000 On-going	No Augmentation.
Mandate Backlogs (Including: Maintenance, Instructional Equipment)	\$49,500,000	Paydown	\$228,300,000 from current year and prior year
Remaining Apportionment Deferrals	\$ 592,456,000	Paydown	\$94,500,000 (would eliminate system deferrals)
CTE (SB 1070)	\$48,000,000	N/A	\$48,000,000
Other			
Proposition 39	\$37,500,000	N/A	\$39,600,000
Adult Education	\$25,000,000 (for planning grants)	\$500,000,000	\$500,000,000

California Community Colleges and Tuition

With President Obama proposing free tuition for community students and the Board of Governors provisionally approving a number of four-year degrees at community colleges, it is clear that the most cost-effective education in the country will continue to be at a California community college.

President Obama based his tuition proposal on a program called the *Tennessee Promise*, which will award free tuition to every eligible student in the state community college system. While a laudable goal, it is important to note that the tuition in California is already the lowest in the nation at \$1,380 annually compared to the national average of \$3,800. Additionally, while the *Tennessee Promise* could serve an estimated 60,000 students, over 400,000 students at California Community Colleges do not pay tuition due to receipt of the Board of Governors (BOG) fee waiver.

Another example of the affordability of a degree at California Community Colleges is our new Baccalaureate degree program. Under this pilot program, 15 community colleges will be able to offer BA degrees at the cost of \$10,560 at the present fee level. This is very efficient, especially compared to fees at the California State University of \$27,036 over four years, or private non-profit schools with similar programs costing over \$30,000.

For an excellent discussion on free tuition for community colleges and four-year degrees at our institutions, San Francisco's KQED radio held a forum featuring Chancellor Brice Harris, Skyline President Regina Stanback Stroud and Heather Esparza, a graduate of Skyline's respiratory program. To access it, click [here](#).

Mission of California's Community Colleges Affirmed

At the League's legislative conference last week, Dr. Manuel Pastor gave a presentation affirming the mission of California's Community Colleges. Dr. Pastor, a professor of sociology at the University of Southern California, showed the changing socio-economic demographics of California compared with the rest of the nation. His presentation revealed that while California and the nation as a whole are growing more diverse, the equity gap continues to increase.

The mission of California Community Colleges is to ensure that individuals from every socioeconomic group have the chance to improve their lives through higher education. Dr. Pastor's presentation showed that now, more than ever, our community colleges are central to the economic well-being of this state and our nation. The League will be forwarding a link to his presentation slides when they are available.

Audit Fee – A Problem to Solve

Currently community colleges are disincentivized to permit students to audit classes because they do not receive state apportionment for auditing students and cannot charge them more than \$15 per unit.

In 2011 the Academic Senate passed a resolution calling for equalizing the audit fee with the credit fee because they believe that the current audit fee is a barrier to students who want to repeat courses, access community college education, or maintain access to courses for which they may neither seek nor need credit. To see a full text of the resolution, click [here](#).

When fees were first established for community colleges, the credit fee was \$5 per unit while the audit fee was set at \$15, or 300% of the credit fee. However, while legislators have increased the credit fee, they did not raise the audit fee which has led to the current discrepancy. While consideration was given to introducing a bill to at least equalize the audit fee with the credit fee, discussions with legislative staff indicate that it would have virtually no possibility of passing because it is perceived as a fee increase.

For more information, contact the League's Government Relations staff:

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