State Seeking Significant ‘Surprise’ Cuts to Community Colleges

“February Surprise” mid-year reductions would increase single-year community college reductions to $554 million.

The State of California is seeking to use a “February Surprise” to reduce funding for community colleges by an additional $149 million this current budget year. The state’s 112 community colleges have already sustained more than $405 million in funding cuts this budget year, according to numbers released by the Community College League of California.

While not broken down specifically by campus, the cut, would eliminate in excess of $4 million from the North Orange County Community College (which oversees Cypress College, Fullerton College and the School of Continuing Education), according to projections from the League.

The cuts will result in fewer students being able to attend the colleges and will “have a lasting impact on an entire generation of students,” said Dr. Jack Scott, Chancellor of the California Community College system (and a former Cypress College president).

“This $149 million reduction is unexpected and even larger than the mid-year trigger cut that the community college system has already endured,” Chancellor Scott said. “This will result in colleges further reducing course sections, additional borrowing and staff reductions.

“Because of the poor economy, we’ve seen a dramatic increase in the number of students receiving the California Community Colleges Board of Governors Fee Waiver. This alone accounts for $107 million of the added shortfall. As a state, we need to recognize the lasting damage that the disinvestment in higher education is having and commit to properly funding our colleges and universities.”

Scott Lay, President and CEO of the Community College League of California, called the cuts a “February surprise,” and noted that the come on top of $313 million in reductions made in the original state budget last summer and another $102 million in “triggered cuts” made last month when state revenues fell short of projections.

“It is unconscionable that the state continues to foreclose on educational opportunity at this time of record demand and high unemployment,” said Lay, whose organization is a nonprofit association of California’s 72 community college districts, serving the districts in
CONTINUED: CA Seeks to Make ‘Surprise’ Additional Mid-Year Cuts

Continued from page 1

governmental relations, leadership development and district services. “These latest cuts threaten the elimination of even more classes and more faculty and staff layoffs.”

Lay said that this round of reductions would bring “the one-year cut to California’s three segments of public higher education to over $2.1 billion.”

“Before the latest cuts, community college were operating with $996 million (23%) in less funding since 2008-09, and have reduced enrollment by nearly 284,000 students at a time when demographically they should have significantly increased enrollment,” he said.

CONTINUED: Police Looking for Man Who Entered Women’s Restroom

Continued from page 1

image extracted from that video accompanies this report.

The victim described the suspect as 5-feet, 10-inches and heavy set. He was wearing black pants and a black hoodie, with a red collar showing under the sweatshirt. He was also carrying a black backpack. A video shows the suspect exiting the Humanities Building from the north door, heading towards Lot 9.

Anyone with information about the suspect is asked to contact Campus Safety and/or Cypress Police immediately.

Campus Safety can be reached at (714) 484-7387. Every member of the campus community should program this number into their mobile phones so it is handy. Anyone with additional information is asked to contact the Cypress Police Department at (714) 229-6600.

Students and employees are reminded that activity that appears to be suspicious should be reported to Campus Safety and/or Cypress Police.

Here are some personal safety tips that are important to follow so that we can continue to maintain a safe campus:

- Exercise caution when approaching or being approached by someone you don’t know.
- Travel in groups or pairs, and in well-lit areas at night.
- Report suspicious activity if you observe it.
- Report incidents immediately.
- Campus Safety is located in the Business Building, with an entrance from Parking Lot 1.
- Escorts to and from your vehicle are available by contacting Campus Safety.
- Emergency phones are located in a number of places on campus; they ring directly to Campus Safety and are identified on the campus map with a phone symbol.
- “If you feel there is an immediate threat, dial 911.”

CONTINUED: Women’s Basketball Headed to Playoffs

Continued from page 1

Margaret Mohr, Cypress College’s head coach said, “I’m so proud of the job those girls did this season. They put the time in to be successful and it paid off.”

The Chargers will get a chance to show how much they’ve improved since the beginning of the season, when they travel to Long Beach City College for a rematch with the Vikings. It’s been more than three-and-a-half months, 22 games, and a conference championship since then for the Charger team, which has matured tremendously during that time.

Their OEC schedule left them battle tested, and they’ve proven that they can win big games when they have to.

In the playoffs, every game could be their last, so soon it will be determined if this year’s team can put Cypress College back in the State Championship Final Four for a second straight season. Friday’s game will be web-streamed LIVE on the Cypress College Athletics website, and their UStream channel.
“Sí, se puede: Succeeding in the Face of Adversity”

Dr. Alejandro Briseno
Assistant Professor of Polymer Science and Engineering
University of Massachusetts, Amherst

March 1, 2012
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Hum-136

Professor Briseno will detail the remarkable story of the journey that brought him to a career in science. As a young man, the murder of his father in Los Angeles led him to direct his life away from violence and self-destruction. His very personal and inspiring story will show you how dreams can turn to reality when you know what path to follow and will give you guidance on how to find that path. Professor Briseno will also discuss the research carried out in his laboratory and how his work has an impact on the future of energy and technology. Professor Briseno’s research is centered on organic electronic materials and their use in real-world applications such as solar cells and transistors. For more information about Professor Briseno’s research: http://www.pse.umass.edu/abriseno/

Funded by the Cypress College Diversity Committee. Sponsored by Culturas Unidas and the English Department.
37th Annual Americana Awards

AMERICANA MOMENT:
36th Annual Americana Awards,
February 26, 2011

We Give Thanks founder Frank Garcia receives the Man of the Year Award from Cypress College President Dr. Michael Kasler at the 36th Annual Americana Awards on Saturday, February 26, 2011.

The 37th Annual Americana Awards take place TOMORROW!

We’ll be hosting an ‘Americana Live’ with photos, videos and thoughts from the Ballroom. And, you can join in the fun. Just hop on to Twitter and include #CCAmericana in your tweets. Follow along at: https://twitter.com/#!/search/%23CCAmericana

You can learn more about our 2012 Man of the Year, Bruno Serato, and the amazing Citizens of the Year at: http://www.cypresscollege.edu/about/Foundation/Events/Americana.aspx. Information about the auction items: http://www.cypresscollegeauction.com

Our earlier ‘Americana Moments’ are collected on our Facebook page at http://www.facebook.com/AmericanaAwards. Be sure to click on the ‘Like’ button while you’re there.
“Original Copy” Opens in Art Gallery

“Original Copy: Contemporary Printmakers, Traditional Techniques” opened in the Cypress College Art Gallery on February 23. The show features four professional artists who use printmaking — screen printing, block printing, etc. The tools the artists use to make their work will also be displayed in the exhibit, giving it an educational bent.

The opening reception on Thursday, February 23 was fun and interactive — including food and a vinyl-playing DJ, according to Carleton Christy, who teaches drawing and printmaking at Cypress College, and is the curator of the show.

Attendees were able to choose from several designs (by one of the featured artists) and have it printed right before them on the exhibition floor.
The budget freefall: Three rounds of 2011-12 budget cuts

North Orange County CCD

Summary of estimated 2011-12 cuts for North Orange County CCD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Cut</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enacted</td>
<td>-$9,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January &quot;Triggered&quot;</td>
<td>-$2,950,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>-$4,148,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total 2011-12 Est. Budget Cut</strong></td>
<td><strong>-$16,298,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The Budget Act

In the 2011-12 state budget, the state General Fund appropriation for community colleges was cut by $400 million, which was expected to be partially offset by $110 million in new fee revenue from a state-mandated increase in fees from $26 to $36 per unit.

In an effort to maintain the per-student funding received by the state, the Budget Act provided the Chancellor's Office with authority to reduce student workload commensurate with the funding cut taken by the community colleges. Districts reduced enrollment, as instructed, in all areas except enrollments in basic skills, workforce training and transfer-level coursework. Underlying the provision permitting colleges to reduce enrollments was an acknowledgment that colleges have NOT received a cost of living adjustment in four years while at the same time their fixed costs have increased (negotiated agreements, health & welfare benefits, utilities etc) significantly. While a workload reduction permits institutions to somewhat "preserve" instructional quality, the lack of investment in higher education results in "shutting the door" on students.
For North Orange County CCD, this reduced funding by approximately $9,200,000, resulting in a workload reduction of 2,157 FTES, or approximately 719 course sections.

The January Trigger Cuts

In an effort to conclude the 2011-12 budget deliberations in June 2011, an additional $4 billion of revenues was added to Governor Brown's May Revision projections to "preserve" overall programmatic funding statewide. Companion legislation to the budget act outlined additional programmatic reductions throughout the budget in the event revenues came in under projections. On December 13th the Department of Finance announced an additional $981 million of "trigger" reductions of which $102 million were specifically targeted at the community colleges. This $102 million reduction to the colleges arrived 6 months into the fiscal year and came at the conclusion of the fall 2011 semester, and after spring 2012 schedules had been set. Given the dynamics unfolding related to the upcoming November election, it is likely the colleges will again find themselves on a "trigger" list which once again will compromise their ability to serve their communities.

For North Orange County CCD, this reduced funding by an additional amount of approximately $2,116,000, resulting in an additional workload reduction of 521 FTES, or approximately 174 course sections. Additionally, the district was cut $834,000 on a one-time basis.

The February Surprise

On February 16, California’s community college districts were informed that they would have an additional $149 million mid-year cut, on top of the $313 million cut included in the 2011-12 enacted budget and the $102 million made in January as part of the “budget triggers.” This brings the total 2011-12 cuts to an astounding $564 million.

The cut is due to lower-than-projected property tax and student enrollment fee revenues, which are ordinarily combined with state general fund revenues to provide each district's "apportionment"--the basic per-student funding that supports instruction and student services.

Of the $564 million in total cuts, $385 million is taken as a permanent "workload reduction, meaning fewer classes will be offered and fewer students will be served. The remaining $149 million is a one-time reduction to funding per student, reducing funding from $5,659 in 2008-09 to nearly $5,000 in 2011-12.

For North Orange County CCD, this reduced funding by an additional amount of approximately $4,148,000.

Budget Resolution

- District-Adopted Budget Resolutions

Get Involved

- CalChannel
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- Stay Informed
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- Media
- State budget
- Students
- Technical
- Uncategorized