



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Education & Training Takes Major Hit with Slated Budget Cuts *Loss translates to decreased job opportunities & earning potential for Californians*

Sacramento, CA - - The Governor's early release of the budget proposes \$825 million in cuts to the California Community Colleges (CCC), even though it is estimated that over half of the new jobs created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will require a higher education certificate or advanced training. According to the Community College League of California, these cuts to community colleges would be devastating. In fact, 250,000 students would likely be lost under the proposed budget, and that may be a conservative number. **This is equivalent to shutting down the University of California, plus an additional 30,000 students.**

Combined with the 49% cuts to the Disabled Students and Extended Opportunity programs, those squeezed out are most likely to be California's poor and disabled students.

President Obama has said, "It's not just that a world-class education is essential for workers to compete and win, it's that an educated workforce is essential for America to compete and win." But, this becomes a mounting challenge for California, as the surging statewide unemployment rate has placed a huge burden on community colleges. Restricted admissions are the cause of many unemployed Californians, and displaced students from UC and CSU, coming to the colleges by the thousands. Currently, the colleges are serving more than 140,000 students beyond funded levels.

Additionally, cuts to categorical programs such as California Community Colleges Economic & Workforce Development (CCCEWD) further impact the businesses that are served and have a direct impact on the economy. CCCEWD's focus is developing and implementing training and curriculum in key strategic industry sectors that create jobs and career pathways for students and those seeking new careers due to layoffs. Last year, CCCEWD's ten innovative sector-based initiatives served 48,470 organizations resulting in improvements in productivity, sales and new equity investments in California of over \$215 million. CCCEWD consistently creates or

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retains more than 16,000 jobs through its high growth initiatives. Targeted for nearly a 48% cut, this will impact Federal and investment funding that is leveraged through the program and will directly impact employment taxes and wages paid by business. The program consistently returns \$2 for every \$1 of funding. And, the impact is seen directly in the earning potential of California workers; a degree or certificate from a community college can increase income by 63% in just three years.

As the State's largest workforce training provider [serving over 2.7 million Californians each year], the CCC and its EWD program are the key to California's economic recovery; funding is an **Investment in California's future**, and not doing so will impact students, displaced workers and local communities.

Contact your legislator and ask them to protect the community colleges from these devastating cuts. For a list of who to contact in your area, or for more information, go to www.InvestmentsThatCount.org.

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