



For Immediate Release

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Governor's Mid-Year Budget Reductions Include Major Cuts to the Community Colleges

SACRAMENTO – The mid-year budget proposal just released by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger includes \$332.2 million in proposed mid-year cuts to the California Community Colleges. This cut would come on top of the \$290 million reduction included in the recently enacted *2008-09 State Budget*.

“These proposed cuts come at the worst possible time for the community colleges, as they struggle to serve a flood of displaced workers seeking to upgrade their job skills,” said Chancellor Diane Woodruff. “With California’s unemployment rate rising to 7.7 percent, the colleges are experiencing a 10.2 percent increase in enrollments, roughly 100,000 full-time students beyond the level for which the colleges are funded. Our colleges always step up when the economy is in a downturn and this time is no different, however it will require additional resources to sustain this effort.”

Chancellor Woodruff noted that she realizes that the severity of the state’s budget crisis will require all Californians to sacrifice. “However we are deeply concerned that the proposed cuts to the community colleges would negatively impact many thousand unemployed Californians seeking training and slow the state’s economic recovery,” she said. “The proposed \$332.2 million reduction would leave the colleges without the funding to serve approximately 64,000 full-time equivalent students, in addition to the 100,000 that are currently unfunded.”

The California Community Colleges educate more than 2.7 million students annually, making it the largest system of higher education in the nation. The California Community Colleges, comprised of 110 colleges across the state, prepare the majority of the California workforce. Seventy-percent of California nurses received their education at a California Community College. Eighty-percent of state’s firefighters, law enforcement officers, and emergency medical technicians are trained at a California Community College.

“Our colleges are the state’s economic engine, providing the California economy with the skilled workers it needs to compete,” Chancellor Woodruff added. “As a state, we need to find a way to give the colleges the resources they need to keep the doors open.”

“While we have concerns about the proposed cuts, I applaud the governor for standing up for a balanced approach that includes new revenues. The quick collapse of the recently enacted state budget proves that a budget built only on cuts, short-term fixes, and borrowing cannot address the challenges the state faces,” said Chancellor Woodruff. “We remain committed to working with Governor Schwarzenegger and the Legislature to help solve this fiscal crisis and get California’s economy back on track.”

The California Community Colleges is the largest higher education system in the nation comprised of 72 districts and 110 colleges with more than 2.7 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training and basic skills education, prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions and offer opportunities for personal enrichment and lifelong learning. The System Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. For more information about the community colleges, please visit www.cccco.edu

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California Community Colleges Women's Conference 2008 Campus Highlights

[BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE](#)

Bakersfield College will show the conference all day, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the Fireside Room in Campus Center. A special panel discussion with local women will immediately follow the 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. session titled "It's Your Voice: How you can use it to change the world." For more information, contact **Amber Chiang**, Director of Marketing and Public Relations, Bakersfield College, at 661.395.4256 or visit: www.bakersfieldcollege.edu

[BUTTE COLLEGE](#)

The Women's Conference will be shown live via satellite inside the Butte College Library from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event also coincides with the college's Campus Sustainability Day, held at the Butte College Courtyard Lawn featuring music, booths, giveaways and tours. For more information, contact **Lisa DeLaby**, Butte College Public Relations, at 530-895-2937 or visit: www.buttecollege.edu

[DeANZA COLLEGE](#)

In connection with De Anza's ongoing Youth Vote 2008 campus events. DeAnza College will air live satellite coverage of The Women's Conference in the Fireside Room, from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. DeAnza will shine a spotlight on the "It's Your Voice: How you can use it to change the world" panel discussion. For more information, contact **Lois Jenkins**, Program Coordinator Marketing/Communications, De Anza College at (408) 864.8948 or visit: www.DeAnzaCollege.edu

[FRESNO CITY COLLEGE](#)

Fresno City College will show The Women's Conference from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the FCC College Activities Student Lounge. Faculty members have been asked to lead discussions after each session and have been encouraged to invite their students to attend this dynamic and stimulating conference. For more information, please contact, **Kathy Bonilla**, Public Information Officer, 559.442.8258 or visit: www.fresnocitycollege.edu.

[PALOMAR COLLEGE](#)

Palomar will air The Women's Conference live by satellite broadcast in its Student Union and two other San Marcos campus locations, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. There will be a large rear-projection screen set up in the Student Union. Two smaller campus locations showing the satellite broadcast will be the Palomar College TV (PCTV) studio (8 a.m. to 3 p.m.) and the conference room in the Library. Faculty will be engaging students to watch and discuss the conference speakers and panels. For more information, **Sherry Titus**, Director, Student Affairs, 760.744.1150, ext. 2596 or **Mark Oggel**, Director, Communications, ext., 2152 or please visit: www.palomarcollege.edu.

[SADDLEBACK COLLEGE](#)

Saddleback College will show The Women's Conference all day, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. in rooms 212 and 208 of the Student Services Center. At 11:30 a.m., women's studies professors Allison Camelot and Anne Cox and Spanish Professor Carmenmara Hernandez-Bravo will lead a discussion on using, "one's voice to change the world." At 2:30 to 3 p.m.

Anthropology Professor Renee Garcia and Sociology Professors Nicole Loftus and Elizabeth Arreaga will lead a discussion on, “challenges women face in positions of leadership.” For more information, please contact: **Jennie McCue**, Director, Public Information & Marketing, 949. 582.4320 or visit: <http://www.saddleback.edu>

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

President Rita Cepeda will join San Diego Community College District Chancellor Constance M. Carroll and more than 10 Mesa College professors and lead campus discussions centered on a live webcast of The Women’s Conference. Students, faculty, staff and members of the community are invited to participate in this event that will take place at the college’s Learning Resources Center (LRC) from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. In addition, delayed broadcast events are scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, October 22 and 23 in Rooms H117-118, at which campus moderators will use these speeches as a platform to stimulate a dialogue about the challenges facing our nation and what students can do to help themselves and others. For more information, please contact: **Hossna Sadat**, hsadat@sdccd.edu; 619.388.2801 or **John Nunes**, jnunes@sdccd.edu, 619.388.6557 or visit: www.sdmesa.edu/womens-studies.