

MARCH IN MARCH 2024

By John Fox, Foothill College

After a 14-year hiatus, the March in March returned to Sacramento, empowering community college students and faculty to bring their concerns and grievances to legislators.



▲ Buses traveled from various parts of the state to gather at Sutter Health Park, including a delegation from Foothill-De Anza.



▲ Organizing this project was no small feat...



◀ Raising our voices for a brighter tomorrow—families included!



▲ The student marchers voiced their opinions without hesitation.

Then came the moment to march to the State Capitol.



◀ Sociology instructor John Fox from Foothill College gets ready to walk along Tower Bridge with his fellow March in March supporters.



"We march because despite being the largest, most accessible, and most affordable system of higher education, the California community colleges are grossly underfunded compared to our UC and CSU counterparts."
– Anna Mathews, FACCC Government Relations Director



Arriving at the Capitol

Media outlets took notice of the organized event. ▶



Support was expressed by representatives from various unions, who also offered their own inspiring words. ▶



"We are united for justice, we are united for education, and we are standing here united today."
– Jeff Freitas, President, California Federation of Teachers

Because...



To conclude, the students shared their powerful perspectives:

"In a time of budget deficits, the legislature needs us to constantly remind them about their promise to us."
– Chanelle Win, Vice-President of Legislative Affairs, Student Senate for California Community Colleges

"Education is freedom. It's freedom from ignorance, it's freedom from poverty, it's literal freedom from incarceration. The freedom to make your own choices in life."

– Dr. James McKeever, President of Los Angeles College Faculty Guild and March in March organizer.



◀ Assemblymember Pilar Sciavo (D) of District 40 shared some inspiring words.

"We know that the students of our community colleges are the ones who are struggling the most... And these are the students that we need to be fighting for the most in this Capitol today... I will be with you every step of the way."

– Assemblymember Pilar Sciavo (D) District 40



◀ Numerous part-time faculty members assembled to demonstrate their support. Marlo Smith of Adjunct Faculty United highlighted the issue: 'Higher education depends heavily on part-time faculty. We earn considerably less than our full-time counterparts and lack job security.'

"Higher education is overly reliant on part-time faculty. We make significantly less, compared to our full-time colleagues, and we have no job security."

– Marlo Smith, Adjunct Faculty United

Join us in driving positive change in higher education! On Tuesday, March 4, 2025, we will march to the California State Capitol to advocate for our students' futures, affordable education, housing, and more. Your voice is crucial!