



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

PRESS RELEASE

June 3, 2010

Contact: Paige Marlatt Dorr

Office: 916.327.5356

Cell: 916.601.8005

Office E-mail: pdorr@cccco.edu

BlackBerry: PMarlatt@comcast.net

California Community Colleges Make Concerted Effort to Meet Demand

Roughly 140,000 Students Projected as Turned Away in 2009-10

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott today held a media briefing with three community college leaders and the president of the community colleges student senate to discuss the impact of budget cuts on the system and provide an update on the status of summer sessions as record numbers of students are seeking to enroll in classes.

“We estimated 140,000 students were turned away this academic year,” said Chancellor Jack Scott. “I’m hearing that on some college campuses thousands of students are on waiting lists for summer school. And, in some colleges students have camped out overnight in order to get into summer classes.”

After peaking at nearly 3 million students in 2008-09, the system started to see a slight statewide decline in enrollments despite an unprecedented demand. California’s largest class of graduating high school seniors, the state’s high unemployment, displaced students from the University of California and California State University, and veterans returning home and seeking career training are putting strain on a system that is already beyond capacity and in the midst of downsizing course sections in order to remain fiscally sound and in line with state funding.

In the 2009-10 academic year, the system sustained an 8 percent cut to its overall budget. This translated to more than 200,000 unfunded students attending a community college campus.

“It is clear to me that college CEOs are doing the best job they can to retain courses that lead to job retraining, degrees, certificates, transfer, and basic skills,” said Scott. “While almost all areas of our curriculum have suffered cuts, these important areas have been spared the most from the reductions.”

For fall 2009, course sections were cut by 6.3 percent and enrollment dropped by 0.2 percent over fall 2008. While total headcount declined by only 0.2 percent, the system’s first-time community college student enrollments decreased by 12 percent.

“Unfortunately, we expect this trend to continue through the 2010-11 academic year,” said Scott. “This June, California will have its largest graduating class of high school seniors. It’s really sad that many of these students have been planning their whole life to go to college and suddenly they find the doors are closed.”

Sandra Serrano, the chancellor of Kern Community College District, shared first-hand about issues students in her area are encountering with regard to summer school classes. “At Bakersfield College in Kern County, we had

to reduce our summer class sections from last year by approximately 28 percent and we have nearly 2,000 students on wait lists right now. The courses with the highest number of students on a wait list are in general education courses - history, political science, biology and English. For fall 2010, more than 6,000 students are already on wait lists.”

The Los Rios Community College District Chancellor Brice Harris stated his situation in the Sacramento region. “As of yesterday, nearly 90 percent of our summer classes were full. About 70 percent of the full classes have wait lists. When you look at the fall term, a semester that starts about two and a half months from now, 60 percent of all of our classes are already full and about 14,000 students sitting on a wait list. Behind all of these numbers are individual students whose education is being delayed tremendously and other students who simply can’t get in at all.”

Mt. San Antonio Community College District President John Nixon described cuts to his college which is located in eastern Los Angeles County. “Let me put a face on the story. In our allied health programs we have a two to three year waiting list to gain enrollment into the programs. Who is left out? It’s the new student. Who is that new student? Very often that new student is the out of work person who is a causality of the recession or a re-entry student who is trying to gain skills to get a new job opportunity.”

Reid Milburn, the president of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges, said the situation is really tragic for students right now. “Students are coming to the community colleges from many different walks of life and are being turned away because they simply cannot be served at this point in time. That’s why students appreciate the pledges from state leaders to fund higher education. This afternoon we will be rallying with Governor Schwarzenegger because of his pledge to invest in our students. It’s imperative that we maintain access and affordability. If we can’t even get into our classes, how can we get out there and repair our state and our future?”

The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation composed of 72 districts and 112 colleges serving 2.9 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training and basic skills education and prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions. The Chancellor’s Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

###



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

FACT SHEET

June 2, 2010

Paige Marlatt Dorr

Office: 916.327.5356

Cell: 916.601.8005

Office E-mail: pdorr@cccco.edu

BlackBerry: PMarlatt@comcast.net

What's Ahead for Summer Session and Fall Enrollment at the California Community Colleges

Summer Session Overview:

- ❖ In a planning survey conducted by the Chancellor's Office in November 2009, 63 percent of the responding districts and colleges indicated plans to cut summer course section offerings by at least 50 percent in 2010.
- ❖ Summer course offerings decreased by 22.8 percent from summer 2008 to summer 2009.
 - The California Community Colleges system offered 12,712 fewer summer courses statewide in 2009.

Overall Enrollment Overview:

- ❖ Fall course sections decreased by 6.3 percent (11,364 courses) from 2008 to 2009 while enrollment only went down by 0.2 percent* (2,928 students) for the same period. **The enrollment decrease is lower than the 1 percent projection released by the Chancellor's Office in February 2010.*
 - **Credit** course sections decreased 4.9 percent statewide between fall 2008 and fall 2009.
 - **Noncredit** course sections decreased 11 percent statewide between fall 2008 and fall 2009.
 - More students are squeezing into fewer of classes which significantly impacts class sizes.
 - The number of course sections cut statewide is expected to grow even further in 2010-11 if funding levels remain the same as 2009-10 or are cut further.
- ❖ For summer and fall 2009 combined, the California Community Colleges offered 24,076 fewer course sections than the prior summer and fall terms combined.

Budget Breakdown:

- ❖ The Governor's May state budget revision and the Senate budget plan both proposed **2.2 percent enrollment growth funding (\$126 million) for the California Community Colleges**. The Assembly budget proposal includes \$128 million for enrollment growth as well as \$100 million for job training to get Californians back to work.
 - California community colleges are currently educating significantly more students than the state is funding. The system sustained \$520 million in cuts, or approximately 8 percent of its overall budget in 2009-10. This translates to more than 200,000 unfunded students attending a community college campus.

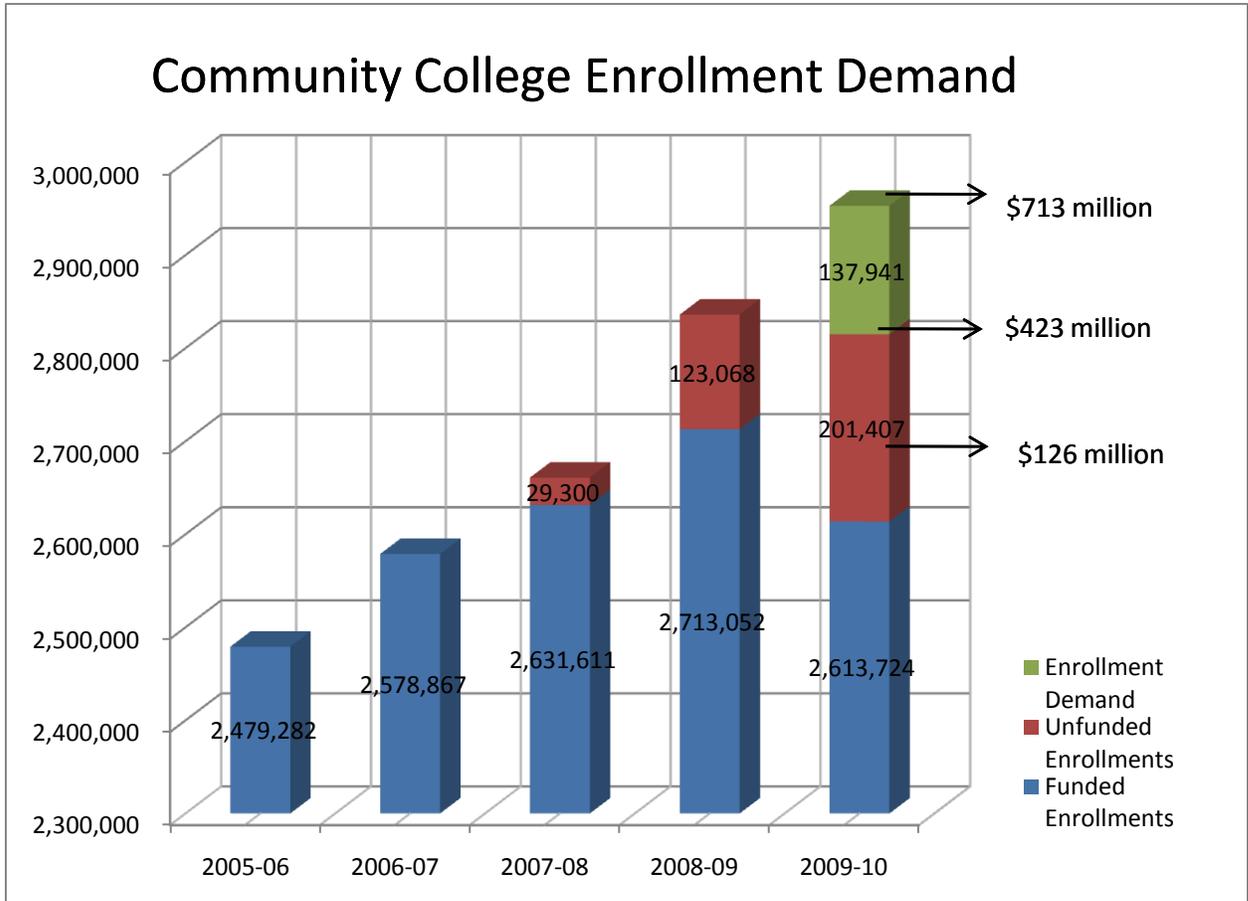
- The \$126 million proposed growth augmentation would fund approximately 60,000 of the 200,000 currently unfunded students (headcount) and will help the colleges respond to the tremendous enrollment demand they are experiencing.

An Early Look Around the State:

Here's what our colleges are reporting –

- **Bakersfield College** - For the summer 2010 session, the college is offering 306 sections which is a 28 percent reduction from summer 2009. Student demand and interest remain high at Bakersfield College.
- **Butte College** – In the upcoming 2010-11 academic year, Butte College plans to reduce course sections by 167 classes. This is a nearly 5 percent reduction in course offerings from the 2008-09 academic year.
- **Cabrillo College** – In 2009-10, Cabrillo College cut 140 course sections - 70 from fall and 70 from spring. Summer session 2010 will be reduced by 10 course sections over summer 2009. The college anticipates cutting an additional 80 sections of classes for 2010-11. Half of the cuts in 2010-11 will come from the suspension of winter session and the remaining cuts will be spread throughout the year.
- **Chaffey College** – Summer session 2010 courses were reduced by 60 percent over those offered in summer 2009. The college is offering one summer session that consists of 162 sections.
- **Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District** – Summer session 2010 courses were reduced by 50 percent over summer 2009. Most summer school classes were filled the first two weeks after registration opened on May 3. Classes begin June 14.
- **Mt. San Antonio Community College** – In 2009-10 course sections were reduced by more than 800 classes. This was done by eliminating 339 classes from the 2009 summer session (representing a 50 percent reduction), 156 classes from the 2009 fall session (representing a 5 percent reduction), 166 classes from the winter 2010 session (representing a 25 percent reduction), and 154 classes from the spring 2010 session (representing a 5 percent reduction). Summer session 2010 will be offered at the same levels as summer 2009. The college is at 100 percent capacity now for classes offered. Classes in most demand are full after 2 or 3 days of registration.
- **San Diego Community College District** – In 2009-10 course sections were reduced by 2,093 classes. Course offerings for the summer session 2010 were reduced by 302 classes over summer 2009.
- **City College of San Francisco** – In the 2009-10 academic year, the college cut a total of 1,500 class sections due to state budget cuts. This includes cancelling summer session 2010.

Enrollment Demand:



###