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California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott Reacts to Governor Schwarzenegger's State of the State Address

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott today commented on Governor Schwarzenegger's State of the State address. "Governor Schwarzenegger's vision that California will no longer spend more money on prisons than it does on higher education is one that holds great promise," said Chancellor Scott. "Wisdom and common sense remind us that tipping the scales back in favor of fully funding education means that fewer Californians will land in a prison cell and we will reduce costs associated with larger prison populations."

Chancellor Scott continued, "I am encouraged by the governor's statement that he will not propose additional cuts to education in 2010-11. This year the California Community Colleges received an 8 percent cut. This cut had very severe consequences. The governor's commitment to protect education is a welcome relief for college faculty, staff and students.

I am also optimistic the governor's efforts to obtain a fair share of California's federal taxes will prevail. With a united front, there is much state leaders can do to ensure Congress and the Obama administration revert back to the Clinton era when California received 94 cents on every tax dollar from the federal government. I will do what I can to help this effort. In February I will travel to Washington D.C. and ask members of Congress and the White House to help fund community college programs that service our returning war veterans, train workers in emerging green and health care technologies, and provide an open door to anyone seeking an education."

The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation comprised of 72 districts and 110 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. For more information about the community colleges, please visit www.cccco.edu.

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