California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott reacts to Gov. Brown’s May Revised Budget Proposal; If November Tax Initiative Fails it Could be the Breakpoint for Some Community Colleges

Sacramento, Calif. – California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott today released the following statement on Gov. Jerry Brown’s revised 2012-13 state budget proposal:

“It’s clearer than ever that voter approval of the governor’s tax initiative in November is the only way to avoid the further dismantling of the California Community Colleges. If the measure fails, our system will suffer a roughly $300 million trigger cut in January. Community colleges have been cut by $809 million, or 12 percent, in the past three years. We’ve been forced to shut the door on hundreds of thousands of potential students who are hungry for a college education.

“California’s economy and growth are dependent on the education and skills of our workforce. Further trigger cuts in January could be the breaking point financially for some colleges and, at a minimum, will severely limit our ability to effectively provide students with career training, two-year degrees and transfer preparation to four-year universities.

“I thank Gov. Brown for continuing to value education and protecting it in his revised budget proposal. Passage of the governor’s plan would provide $313 million in new money and would put community colleges headed in the right direction.”

The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation. It is composed of 72 districts and 112 colleges serving 2.6 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, a basic skills education and prepare students for transfer to four-year colleges and universities. The Chancellor’s Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

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