

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA



July 15, 2010

Dear Martha,

If you haven't noticed, we've been waiting later and later in the week to give you updates on the budget developments. Unfortunately, no news isn't necessarily good news.

There is little in the way of budget news to report. While the Democratic leaders in both houses have reportedly agreed to a general framework, and separate negotiations appear to be occurring between Senate Democratic and Republican leaders, there doesn't appear to be any conversations involving all leaders, including the governor.

The Democrats' plan reportedly would fund Proposition 98 at \$1.8 billion over the governor's level, with most of the resources used to eliminate proposed cuts to K-12 schools. We believe it would also eliminate the proposed negative COLA, as well as the proposed cuts to Part-time Faculty Compensation and Extended Opportunity Programs and Services.

Meanwhile, the budget clock continues to tick, and our colleges continue to engage in costly borrowing to keep the doors open in absence of state funding. Unfortunately, some of our colleges have already been forced to close their doors this summer as student demand far exceeds available resources.

We're a long way from a final budget deal, and we still need your advocacy to avoid deeper cuts to our colleges. While we're happy that the governor and legislators have mostly been talking about maintaining investment in our colleges, we can't forget the deep level of cuts to vital student success categorical programs imposed last year and, under any budget plan, likely to continue this year.

Keep up your advocacy and, if you need any assistance or materials, do not hesitate to contact the League's budget advocacy team at budget@cleague.org.

In an hour, community college leaders will first huddle to discuss the system's budget request for the 2011-12 state budget. While the state is certain to continue to face difficult budget times, it is essential for us to continue to tell the story of the amazing work that community colleges can do--if provided the resources necessary to adequately serve our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Scott".

Scott Lay
President and Chief Executive Officer
Orange Coast College '94