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NEWS

District Urges Assembly to Reject Cuts to Student Financial Aid

COSTA MESA, Calif. — The Coast Community College District’s Board of Trustees urged the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education to reject proposed cuts to the state’s competitive Cal Grant program.

“A move to sever funding for the poorest students will not save California anything,” said Board President Jerry Patterson. “In fact, it may cost taxpayers more in social services because these students will no longer be in school and won’t have the education to find a job that will support them.”

“Our three colleges we serve nearly 3,000 students that rely on Cal Grants to get an education,” Patterson continued. “These students are looking to us to provide them with an education that will get them better jobs. This is yet another short-sighted look at programs and services that can be cut without giving thought to the repercussions to students and the state’s economy. Once again, the budget is being balanced on the backs of our students. The elimination of the Competitive Cal Grant program is the same as giving someone a reserved seat at the welfare office.”

The Cal Grant program currently provides college opportunities for 44,600 low-income community college students throughout California. As the state faces its worst fiscal crisis in recent history, training skilled workers to enter or return to the workforce is vital to the State’s economic recovery. Further, these low-income students when provided with an education and job training are able to become self-sufficient members of the community.

The Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education met in Sacramento earlier this week to discuss the issue.

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The Coast Community College District is the ninth largest community college district in the state in credit enrollment, serving 60,000 students each semester. The district is comprised of Coastline Community College headquartered in Fountain Valley, Golden West College in Huntington Beach and Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa. Visit our website at www.cccd.edu.