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**NEWS**

**State Budget Benefits Orange County Community College Students**

Approved budget plan provides funding for community college students

After months of waiting on state legislators, the Coast Community College District is pleased with the budget passed late last night. The Governor and legislative leaders recognized the importance of higher education in the current economic climate and cuts to community college budgets were less severe than cuts to other sectors.

“The new budget allows us to continue to help people who have lost their jobs and need new skills,” said Acting Chancellor Dr. Ding-Jo Currie. “It also gives us the opportunity to serve students who are not able to go to four-year universities.”

In the spring semester, the district enrolled over 40,000 students at its three campuses – Coastline Community College, Golden West College and Orange Coast College. “Just having a budget is helpful and will enable the district to better plan for the next few years. Typically when the economy is not great, our enrollments increase. We need to plan for the influx of students looking for job training or to complete classes to transfer to a university and are committed as a district to offering classes that our students need. Knowing what the budget will be is key to helping us plan for classes that are necessary, but may not be funded.” said Currie.

Board President, Jim Moreno stated that “we did not escape cuts altogether, but recognize that legislators see the tremendous value of our community colleges. In addition to funding growth, legislators did not raise the cost of community college tuition, keeping the system one of the most affordable and effective in the country which is a key issue for our students.”

The Coast Community College District is headquartered in Costa Mesa and is home to Coastline Community College headquartered in Fountain Valley, Golden West College in Huntington Beach and Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa.

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