



Los Rios College Federation of Teachers

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Thursday, March 11th, 2004**

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Los Rios Community College Students To Protest 44% Fee Hikes

Students to Deliver Thousands of Letters to Sac-area Legislators

SACRAMENTO, CA - For the past week, Sacramento-area community college students have been signing petitions and letters to protest a 44% hike in tuition fees in Governor Schwarzenegger's proposed budget. Student fees were already increased by 64% just last year. Student fees would now increase from an already high \$18 per unit to \$25 per unit. Students delivered the signed petitions to their legislators representing the Los Rios Community College District, which include Cosumnes River, Folsom Lake, Sacramento City, and American River colleges.

The letters noted that the double-digit fee increases do not return to the community colleges as they do when tuition is raised for CSU and UC students. The letters state that, "What the governor and his financial advisors conveniently leave out is that while students pay more, California is one of the stingiest states in terms of its support for community colleges." In a study by the Public Policy Institute of California released earlier this year, California was reported to rank 45th out of 49 states in spending per community college student in 1999-2000.

Says one writer, "If implemented, these increases will cause financial hardship and deter students from enrolling in the community colleges."

Students are also distressed by the Governor's proposal to charge a "differential fee" to those students in possession of a bachelor's degree who have lost jobs and need to return to community college for updated job skill training.

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