



California Federation of Teachers
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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CFT Calls on Legislature to Keep Doors to Higher Education Open Pushes Budget Solution to Add 100,000 Community College Students

Sacramento – The California Federation of Teachers (CFT) today called upon the Legislature and the Governor to adopt common-sense fiscal steps to preserve access to higher education and create space for 100,000 more community college students.

“There are several prudent budget choices the Legislature could take immediately, even in the face of Republicans’ ideological intransigence to raising taxes. Three hundred thousand students have already lost access to community colleges at a time of increased demand,” said Joshua Pechthalt, president of California Federation of Teachers. “Now is not the time to simply ‘buy down’ past unmet funding commitments, but to make sure that the doors stay open to the students who are knocking on them now.”

- Over the last three years, California Community Colleges have been cut by \$809 million and total enrollment has gone down by 300,000 students at a time of increased demand. As a result, colleges have been forced to reduce course offerings, increase class sizes, and lay off adjunct faculty and other staff.
- California community colleges educate 70% of our state’s nurses and train 80% of firefighters, law enforcement personnel, and emergency medical technicians. Nearly 50 percent of all California veterans receiving GI educational benefits attend a California community college for workforce training or to get a degree.
- Governor Brown and the Legislature are proposing to use \$313 million to “buy down” some of the funding commitments to community colleges

that have been deferred. Instead the Legislature could redirect \$200 million of the \$313 million total to expand student access, which would allow 100,000 additional students to gain access to community colleges next year.

- We applaud the Legislature in agreeing that the anticipated increased property tax revenues that would be realized from the liquidation of redevelopment agencies and slated for community colleges should be guaranteed.
- The CFT is also urging the Governor to agree with the Legislature in dropping the \$311 million proposed cut to Cal Grants.
- The final budget should freeze tuition at the University of California.

The CFT represents 120,000 education professionals working at every level of the education system from ECE to the University. The AFT has more than 3,000 local affiliates nationwide, 43 state affiliates, and more than 1.4 million members.

For more information please visit: www.cft.org