

To: assemblymember.swanson@assembly.ca.gov, assemblymember.hayashi@assembly.ca.gov
From: Carolyn Arnold <carnold@gw5mail.clpccd.cc.ca.us>
Subject: Please prevent cuts to community colleges - very shortsighted!
Cc: scottlay@ccleague.org,Celia_Barberena,Melinda_Matsuda,gene_Groppetti
Bcc: Rajinder,Yvonne

Dear Mr. Swanson and Ms. Hayashi:

I live in Oakland and work in Hayward at Chabot (community) College, so I am writing to both of you.

I urge you to resist all attempts to cut the funding for California Community Colleges. Attached is a report that details the contribution that former Chabot students make to the local and state economy. This is true of all the community colleges. Please read and use as you can. A cut of 14% would drastically reduce the number of students we can serve and send into the local economy.

I realize that the state is in an economic crisis, but in times of economic crisis, community colleges are the LAST place that should be cut. We are the place people turn to when they lose their job, or need to train for a job, or want a 2-year degree or cannot afford to go to CSU or UC in the first 2 years of college. All of us in the state lose if more and more people cannot get an education and instead drop into low paying jobs and poverty. Of the students who come to us, 55% are low income, and 40% are in the first generation of their family to attend college, so if they get an education, they will be lifting their own families out of poverty.

California can recover economically and prosper only if the younger generation, new immigrants and displaced workers get a good education, so they can get a well-paying job and pay the taxes which the state needs so much. The minimum education that is needed for a good job is now a community college certificate or degree.

Community colleges are the training ground of the future labor market. At Chabot College, our job training programs are in high demand, high pay occupations such as nursing, dental hygienist, welding, machine shop, and computer programmers. We are developing new programs like biotech and digital media and looking into alternative energy HVAC programs to respond to growing future job demands. Our former students are contributing to the local and state economy, as the attached report shows.

If you need any more information about our programs, our students, or the economic benefits to community colleges, please do not hesitate to call me - we have that information and more here in the Institutional Research Office.

Thank you for continuing to represent the unrepresented and to find ways to empower everyone and help the state prosper. Community colleges are one of those ways.

Regards,
Carolyn

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