



A Message from Chancellor Sonya Christian

May 10, 2024

CEO Colleagues:

This morning, Gov. Newsom released his revised 2024-25 budget proposal, which includes significant spending reductions for many state services but largely protects the California Community Colleges. Let me get the bad news out of the way and then focus on the better news.

The May budget revision includes an 8 percent reduction for all state agencies' operations budgets, including ours. If enacted, this reduction would reduce our state operation budget by about \$2.1 million. For context, the \$2.1 million reduction is roughly equivalent to annual expenditures for about 34 classified positions. Governor Newsom also referred to 10,000 vacant positions to be swept statewide. This will be challenging, particularly given our ambitious agenda; however, the cuts could have been worse.

Now for the better news ... we are grateful that the governor and his administration have protected our core funding, which will help us meet the goals of [Vision 2030](#) and the governor's [Roadmap for California Community Colleges](#).

The budget revision employs a two-year timeframe to grapple with a substantial budget deficit by dipping into the Proposition 98 Rainy Day Fund, although at a lower level than proposed in the January plan. For community colleges, withdrawals from the Public School Stabilization Account are increased for both the current year and budget year. The proposed budget revision provides a **1.07 percent Cost of Living Adjustment for colleges** and moves ahead with the **full implementation of the Student-Centered Funding Formula (SCFF)**, maintaining the state's commitment to keeping 2024-25 as the new funding "floor" for all of our colleges.

In alignment with Vision 2030 and the governor's Roadmap for California Community Colleges, the revision emphasizes the need to continue growing California's workforce in high-priority areas, even during this challenging fiscal climate. **We are glad that the governor's budget maintains a \$60 million investment in growing community college nursing programs.**

Equally important, the budget plan seeks to support students' basic needs so that they can succeed academically, support their families, and grow California's economy. While it is no surprise, given the state's fiscal outlook, the plan does not include full funding for the Cal Grant reform package approved two years ago. The good news is that **the plan maintains the state's commitment to affordable student housing.**

As a testament to the confidence placed in our system, we are happy to see investments in four important Vision 2030 demonstration projects that support the Governor's Career Education Master Plan. Many of you are participating in and leading these projects.

- Support for the **Common Cloud Data Platform demonstration project** to address the inability of colleges to share data across a common platform. A shared data infrastructure and data governance

- will deliver near real-time student analytics, provide the foundation for an automatic application and acceptance pipeline to other institutions, and offer analytics to support student services and programs.
- Funding for **e-transcripts initiative** to meet the goals set forth in the Governor's Cradle to Career Data Project. It is crucial that we improve students' ability to access and transmit their school records quickly within the education ecosystem.
- Resources to expand **Credit for Prior Learning**, which gives students a jump start on completing their degree and entering the workforce, which is particularly important for our low-income working learners.
- And investment in support for **low-income domestic care workers** by creating career paths to higher wages and careers to help ease income inequalities in partnership with organized labor.

As the Governor and Legislature continue their budget deliberations, let's stay focused and aligned in our advocacy efforts. As is the tradition, the Chancellor's Office will distribute a full joint analysis prepared with system partners, the Association of Chief Business Officials (ACBO), the Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA), and the Community College League of California (CCLC). It will be posted [here](#).

In the meantime, if there is something you want to talk through, please feel free to reach out to Dr. Daisy Gonzale, Deputy Chancellor, and Wrenna Finche, Vice Chancellor of Finance and Facilities.

CA CCs we continue to take care of our students, our communities, and our planet.

Our time is now!

Thanks,
Sonya

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My blog: <https://sonyachristianblog.com/>

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LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/sonya-christian-77241615/>

