



**San Diego Community College District**  
**Office of the Chancellor**

March 4, 2008

***A Mid-Semester Message for the Districtwide Community and Friends of the District***

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

We have definitely come a long way since we began the new academic year on July 1, 2007. Although we have faced challenges throughout the year, we have also made lots of progress in our effort to serve our students and community with the best programs and highest standards of excellence possible. Let me bring you up-to-date regarding several key items: our enrollment progress and the remaining budget and legislative challenges ahead.

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**SPRING SEMESTER ENROLLMENT**

Although we actually experienced over 6% growth in FTES this spring semester, you will recall that we had to reduce the actual number due to the technical calculation known as "units to hours." This meant that we had to grow as much as possible in order to offset the negative impact of this technical adjustment. And that is exactly what we did. Through excellent scheduling by the presidents, vice presidents, administration and faculty at City, Mesa, and Miramar Colleges, Continuing Education and the District, we have achieved 1.1% in overall FTES growth this semester. Please see the chart below. It should be noted that not all of Miramar's academies have been accounted for as yet, and it is projected that Miramar will also be up in FTES this semester. Continuing Education has also grown, which is an important accomplishment after the large budget and class section reductions that CE experienced four years ago. Congratulations to all!

**Spring 2008 FTES Compared to 2007  
As of Census  
Resident College Credit & Continuing Education  
(Excluding Intercession)**

	Spring 2008	Spring 2007	Spring 08 vs. Spring 07
City/ECC	4,398	4,236	3.8%
Mesa	5,906	5,858	0.8%
Miramar	2,799	2,872	-2.5%
<b>College Total Credit</b>	13,103	12,966	1.1%
CE	4,207	4,156	1.2%
<b>District Total</b>	17,310	17,122	1.1%

Note 1. End of term actuals for Spring 2007 and Spring 2008 were used for positive attendance and in-service.



**AN UPDATE ON THE STATE BUDGET  
AND ITS IMPACT ON THE SDCCD**



In commenting on the state budget situation, I am reminded of the line in the movie *Jaws* - "Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water." Since the Governor released his budget message on January 10, much has happened. First, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) released the news that the state budget deficit has grown from the Governor's projected \$14.5 billion to over \$16 billion. Second, the fiscal situation has further deteriorated due to the recent and very serious decline in property taxes during the current year 2007-2008 in two California Counties (Sonoma and Orange). This means an additional loss of \$76 million that will affect community college funding during the current year. The good news of no mid-year cuts for community colleges has now been replaced by the bad news of a deficit factor that will be applied to current year funding in order to make up for the property tax shortfall. This also suggests that property tax receipts will be seriously off in the next budget year 2008-2009.

LAO has also made a number of recommendations, which the Legislature and Governor will take into consideration as we near the next major budget decision: The May Revise. Here are some highlights of LAO's recommendations:

- No COLA for 2008-2009 (just as the Governor had proposed)
- 1.5% FTES growth funding (a bit higher than the Governor's proposal)
- No across-the-board categorical funding cuts. Instead there would be two categorical block grants: one for "Student Success" (\$430 million), replacing a number of individual categorical programs; and one for "Faculty Support" (\$60 million), replacing several programs, largely affecting part-time faculty. Districts would receive reduced categorical funding overall, but would have the flexibility to shift funding between categorical programs.

- An increase in the student enrollment fee, from the present \$20 per unit back to \$26 per unit.

Our District has begun the budget planning process early in order to ensure good consultation and participation. A Preliminary Budget was presented to our Board of Trustees at their February 28 meeting, following discussions by the District Budget Committee, the District Governance Council (DGC), and the Chancellor's Cabinet. The Preliminary Budget represents the three themes or values that are important to all of us: 1) avoiding any negative impact upon contract faculty and staff (including any negative impact upon existing compensation and benefits); 2) ensuring an adequate number of classes and services for students; 3) generating additional FTES revenue; and 4) enacting cost containment measures (deferring/delaying filling a number of new positions and vacancies, improving average class size, and enacting economies wherever possible).

If you would like to see the details of the Preliminary Budget plan, please contact your administrative and governance leaders, or contact Vice Chancellor Terry Davis, who has been working tirelessly on the budget. There will be campus forums on the budget following spring break; you will be notified of the dates and times. I am also part of an intersegmental group that is working at the state level to advocate for higher education funding. Let me close this section of my report by saying that I am personally proud of how we are all handling this situation together. It is not a pleasant situation for any of us and it can be an unsettling experience from time to time as new information arrives, but I hope you all take comfort in the values we have stated and to which we plan to adhere. We will get through this.

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## THE CONTINUING IMPACT OF SACRAMENTO

I am amazed by how much legislation there is in the state of California, which affects all of us, not only due to the bills that actually become law, but by the demands of the process through which they are proposed, amended, opposed, supported, and generally addressed. At the present moment, you will be astonished to note that proposed legislation includes 3,057 Assembly Bills (AB) ; 8 Assembly Constitutional Amendments (ACA); 110 Assembly Concurrent Resolutions (ACR); 1,775 Senate Bills (SB); 12 Senate Constitutional Amendments (SCA); and 89 Senate Concurrent Resolutions (SCR). Our Director of Public Information and Government Relations, Rich Dittbenner, and our Legislative Advisor, Dede Alpert, are working with our State Chancellor's and League Offices in order to follow the bills affecting community colleges closely, as well as to ascertain their potential impact on our District. Among a host of legislative entries, here are a few worth mentioning:



- AB 100 would provide for state bonds for K through University educational institutions.
- AB 591 would increase the maximum workload for adjunct instructors from 60 % to 67%.
- AB 1916 would change the 50% Law.

- AB 2277 would ensure that community colleges receive 11% of the Proposition 98 guarantee for K-14 education funding.
- SB 325 would require new approaches to higher education accountability.
- SB 1585 would require an increase in community college transfers.
- There is a wide range of “clean or green” technology bills.

And there are hundreds more where these came from . . . .

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### **SOME OTHER THOUGHTS**

In closing, let me say that the spring semester will continue to see facilities progress since our bond construction program is fully underway, with dust, earth-movers, construction crews, architects, and faculty/staff design teams hard at work. Having received excellent accreditation midterm report evaluations, accreditation self-study committees are now being formed at the colleges and Continuing Education for the next round of comprehensive accreditation visits in 2010. A widespread effort continues throughout the District to promote green technology and environmental sustainability, with considerable faculty, staff, and student involvement. And there is much, much more that one could point to as evidence of progress and innovation at our institutions this semester.

Please know that the Board of Trustees and I are proud of what you do. As your Chancellor, I continue to view my service to all of you, as well as to our students and community, as a privilege. Thank you for your ideas and support.

Sincerely,

*Constance*

Dr. Constance M. Carroll  
Chancellor