



Good News in the 2021-2022 State Budget

July 1, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

The 2021-2022 state budget that goes into effect today is good news for community colleges and our District. The budget contains spending levels for education that were unimaginable at the height of the pandemic a year ago, when fears loomed of the economy spiraling into a recession. Instead, the \$263 billion state budget contains funding for K-12 schools and community colleges that is projected to exceed what the Legislature had budgeted for 2020-2021 by a third.

The budget includes a 5.07% cost-of-living adjustment, up 1% compared to the May revised budget, along with 0.5% percent for growth in all three components of the Student Centered Funding Formula (FTES, Supplemental and Student Success) and one-time funds for deferred maintenance, instructional equipment and library materials. The budget also extends the hold harmless provision for one more year, giving our District additional time to build back enrollment to our funded level.

More than \$70 million in one-time and ongoing funds have been set aside in the budget for diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, including funding for the Student Equity and Achievement Program; implementing the ethnic studies general education requirement; creating culturally competent professional development; and for Equal Employment Opportunity best practices.

Also good news is the allocation of new funding in the final budget that was not included in the May revised budget providing \$100 million in ongoing funds to hire more full-time faculty and \$90 million in one-time funds to increase part-time faculty office hours.

Next Steps

The District is in the process of closing the books for the 2020-2021 fiscal year and determining our final ending balance. We will be closely following the budget developments at the state level and learning how the allocations will benefit our District. Once we know the budget details, we will reassess our financial situation and build our final budget for 2021-2022. The final budget will be approved by the Board of Trustees in September.

Thank you to everyone in our District who has contributed to our efforts to be fiscally prudent and reduce spending this past year. Our collective efforts have resulted in significant savings that can be used to help with one-time needs next year, including technology and infrastructure.

Stay tuned!

Lynn

Lynn Ceresino Neault, Ed.D.

Chancellor, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District