



**CHABOT
LAS POSITAS**

COMMUNITY
COLLEGE
DISTRICT

May 12, 2009

Dear Colleagues,

RE: Budget Update

Over the past eighteen months, we have all experienced one of the most difficult economic times in our Nation's history. This crisis has extended around the world affecting lives in ways few have experienced. In spite of these challenges, I am encouraged in the knowledge that we work with people devoted to assisting others in the attainment of their dreams. You bring hope and opportunity to those needing assistance during challenging times—and our District is dedicated to maintaining this to the best of our ability.

Like many of you, over the past seven years, I have experienced the chaotic manner in which the State develops a budget. Educational institutions are funded less when our community needs us more; partisanship and self-interest overshadow good educational and public policy, and the voices of our students go unheard and their faces go unseen.

Earlier this year, the Legislature and Governor approved major revisions to the state budget to limit the negative impacts of the current fiscal crisis on our educational institutions. However, this requires passage of Constitutional Propositions before the voters on May 19th. Passage of Constitutional Propositions 1A, 1B, and 1C represent \$5.9 billion in budget solutions that must pass in order for the 2009/10 budget to work. The projected impact to Chabot-Las Positas Community College District total \$7.1 million dollars appropriations reduction on an ongoing basis if these propositions fail.

Ironically, more than ever, the California Community Colleges need secure and stable funding. California's community colleges are serving the highest level of enrollments ever, driven by record high school graduates, soaring unemployment, returning veterans, and the redirection of students from UC/CSU. Over 2.7 million students attend a California Community College, representing 24% of all community college students in this country being enrolled in a two-year college in this state.

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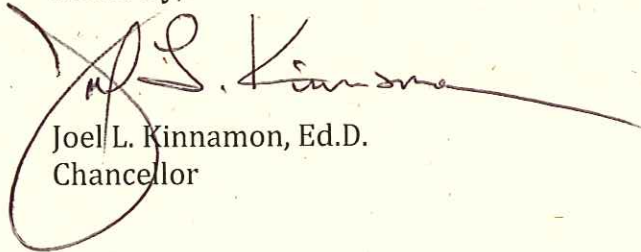
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Over 100,000 of these are students for whom the state is not providing funding; unfunded enrollments in the current year are exacerbated by local revenue shortfalls in property taxes, enrollments fees, and insufficient funding for the state's share of per-student funding.

I want you to know that all of these factors are important as we consider the budget development process for the next fiscal year. As we work to serve the ongoing needs of our community, I will continue my efforts to address the fiscal challenges facing the district. The next few weeks will provide greater clarity regarding the state budget. We will continue to work with the legislature and Governor to identify good public policy that adequately funds education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joel L. Kinnamon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Joel L. Kinnamon, Ed.D.
Chancellor