

March Federal Relations Board of Governor's Report

Community College National Legislative Summit



CCC Interim Chancellor Diane Woodruff and BOG member Barbara Davis Lyman, accompanied by Assistant Vice Chancellor Anne McKinney, led approximately 110 CCC delegates attending the annual National Legislative Summit in DC in a coordinated advocacy effort in Congress during mid February. Seventy percent of the California Congressional Delegation was visited by local campuses and the Chancellor's Office representatives over the three-day conference. The Chancellor's Office visit culminated in Chancellor Woodruff's presentation of the CCC Champion Award to Congressman George Miller, who was greatly influential in achieving the elimination of the Tuition Sensitivity provision in Federal Pell Grant law this past year.

The award was presented in the Capitol off-floor of the House of Representatives Chamber and specifically noted his long-term, ongoing support of community colleges and higher education during his Congressional tenure.

Congress

Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) is slowly progressing, with the expectation that the Conference Committee will vote on approximately March 14. The HEA was last renewed in 1998, and its reauthorization has been pending since 2003 through a series of continuing resolutions (approximately 10). The current one is set to expire at the end of March. The Administration released a statement February 6 opposing, H.R. 4137, the House version which institutes approximately 50 new programs. The statement did not contain a veto threat.

Student Financial Aid

The potential student-loan meltdown has captured the attention of Congress. At a time when the cost of higher education is increasing and college debt is building, new student loan programs in numbers of states are being suspended or limited. House and Senate Education Committee Chairmen, Representative George Miller (D-CA) and Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) sent a letter to U. S. Education Secretary Margaret Spellings urging her to put a plan in place to ensure access to federal student loans if stress in the credit market causes lenders to reduce their activity in the student loan program. The Federal Department reports that officials have met with



representatives of the lending industry to discuss the credit concerns, and the Department is meeting with colleges and universities that may have a lender ends its participation in the federal loan program. Most predict that the federal student-loan program will stay liquid because the political willpower is there – especially in this election year.

Meanwhile, investigation by Attorney General Andrew Cuomo has been further extended to review a broad range of companies and now targeting banks, health insurance, textbooks, food services and credit card companies with ties to hundreds of different schools.

Congressional Earmarks

There is a window of opportunity for Congressional earmarks again, as most Congresspersons remain undeterred from Presidential and spotty Congressional criticism of them. Surprisingly, Henry A. Waxman, D – Los Angeles, was among the voices decrying earmarks as “out of control” and has refused any requests this year. The deadline for each office to turn in its proposal to Senate Appropriations Committees is mid-March. Federal Relations has submitted the following federal requests:

Senator Diane Feinstein

The Alternative Energy Institute — \$4 million

This proposal establishes the Institute as a partnership between the Chancellor’s Office and College of the Canyons, Shasta, Los Angeles Trade-Technical College, Copper Mountain, Skyline, and CSU Los Angeles. It does so by teaming intellectual capital and resources to develop a comprehensive array of curricula and training protocols that can serve as a national model. Time is of the essence as scores of alternative energy projects across the state and throughout the nation are suffering due to lack of installation and maintenance technicians. California is graced with 12 research universities in the state to drive innovations in this sector but is falling short in its technical and sustaining support of this economic engine. Through this CCC effort, California can become more firmly positioned in a well-rounded leadership role with all facets of this vital economic activity. The Institute will:

- Develop and update curriculum to train the workforce;
- Develop model program documents that can be shared with any interested college statewide and nationally;
- Evaluate characteristics of successful training programs within the context of local community and state needs’



- Disseminate information about successful practices through the Web, conference presentations and briefs highlighting challenges, experiences and best practices
- Purchase equipment for training
- Increase the number of trained individuals to install and maintain the equipment
- Increase the use of renewable and sustainable fuels in the State of California.

The University Center Consortium — \$4 million

This proposal establishes a partnership between the Chancellor’s Office and a regional collaborative of higher education, including the College of the Canyons in Santa Clarita, Cañada College in Redwood City, Shasta College in Redding, and four-year universities to offer a comprehensive array of bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral programs in local communities. In this model, community colleges offer the first two years of a college education; the University partners offer upper-division work and grant bachelors and graduate degrees. All coursework is fully articulated, providing a seamless transfer path for students. Because all classes are taken at the local community college, the University Center provides access to affordable four-year programs for underrepresented students and other residents who—because of work schedules, family obligations, or commute time—cannot travel to a four-year university. Since 2001, approximately 7,000 students have attended classes through the university centers, and 1,100 students have earned Bachelor’s or Master’s degrees, ready to enter the job market as business executives, nurses, teachers and childcare professionals. The state saves more than \$15,000 for each student who attends a community college and then transfers, compared to students who complete all four years at a state college.

Congresswoman Doris Matsui

Troops to College Coming Home Initiative — \$2 million

The Chancellor’s Office will partner with Los Rios CCD on this pilot project, which seeks to build on current successful California community college programs by establishing model veteran services project on 10 selected community college campuses representing California’s northern, southern and central regions, which will stand as a national model for “lighthouse programs” to serve this rapidly emerging high-need student population. Lighthouse models will encompass education, as well as mental health programs. Statistics reveal that the vast majority of returning Iraq veterans will attend 2-year rather than 4-year education institutions. California leads the nation in number of veterans (2.2 million), and our system has close to 17,000 students utilizing veteran’s education benefits, plus an estimated 8,000 to 10,000 active duty personnel enrolled annually, not including dependents.



California Community College Math Science Teacher Initiative — \$2 million

This proposal seeks to significantly increase the number of math and science teachers in California. The CCC will establish clear teacher pathways that specify courses and other activities in which students need to be involved in order to become secondary math/science teachers. In the process, faculty and staff from high schools, community colleges and four-year institutions will collaborate in creating teacher preparation pathways and related faculty/staff development opportunities, and work in close partnership to align and integrate curricula and field experience. Together, faculty and staff will identify lower division courses in mathematics and science that are part of the teacher pathways and include in these courses, as appropriate, experiences that foster understanding of secondary math/science teaching without reducing or eliminating community college course requirements necessary to maintain articulation with four-year institutions. Focus will also be placed on increasing community college student awareness of and sustained interest in serving as secondary math or science teachers by providing hands-on classroom experience.

Congressman Dennis Cardoza

Workforce 2020 Science Initiative for the Valley — \$1 million

The Center for Biophotonics, Science and Technology (CBST), headquartered at the UC, Davis, developed a transportable biophotonics curriculum for community colleges in collaboration with Albuquerque Technical Vocational Institute (TVI) in New Mexico. The CCC Chancellor's Office (CO) wants to replicate the model in California among three major regions, beginning with the San Joaquin Valley because of its underserved industry needs and underrepresented student population. The unique attribute of the Merced model will be that it is a non-industry centered program, however, future build-out of the biophotonics program in the northern and southern regions of California would be in industry-centered areas.

This proposal provides for the development of a new biotechnology/biophotonics program certification within California and establishes a model intersegmental Biophotonics program at Merced Community College District. It would: allow a larger number of underrepresented students in the greater Merced area to become technicians in the field of biotechnology; provide portability of knowledge for students to other fields/workforce opportunities; and/or promote more opportunity for students to move to four-year universities in the field of science, over time.