



# CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES SYSTEM OFFICE

## **CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES: LEADING THE WAY IN WORKFORCE TRAINING**

“For too long, vocational education has been looked down upon and considered second-class education. People who say that could not be more wrong.”

**Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger**

*Fresno Bee, 3/22/2006*

“For the first time in the history of California, community colleges are the most important gateway to the university system; thus we have a huge investment in community colleges, career technical education and many, many other things.”

**Speaker Fabian Nunez**

*US States News, 5/8/2006*

“In the great rush to prepare students for four-year degrees, sometimes vocational education has been overlooked and underfunded. Sometimes those students who may not be turned on by algebra and chemistry and English but could be turned on by working in an auto shop or by getting involved in the construction trade simply drop out of high school. We don’t want to see that happening.”

**Senator Jack Scott (D-Altadena)**

*Los Angeles Times, Duke Helfand*

*State to Pump \$20 Million Into Vocational Education, 9/28/2005*

“There is a large and growing demand for people who have these job skills, but at the same time we are discouraging people from getting those skills. There is a disconnect. There has been this perception that vocational education was food enough for those people who couldn’t do anything else. These are honorable and good-paying jobs that are absolutely vital to society. We need people to build our houses and fix our cars.”

**Dan Walters**

*Sacramento Bee, Dan Walters*

*Cutbacks in vocational training has negative effect on economy, 4/9/2005*



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“A qualified workforce is essential to California’s economic success and our community colleges are a vital part of preparing that workforce.”

**Allan Zarembeg**  
California Chamber of Commerce President

“Technology has a great deal to do with what happens. It’s pushing our culture so hard and so fast. Technology has created a new interest in vocational education. And the governor is leading the way.”

**Ellen Ligons**  
Associate Dean of Career Education, Pasadena City College  
*Pasadena Star-News, Cortney Fielding*  
*Vocational training coming back, 1/21/2007*

“Community colleges provide an affordable, open-access gateway to higher education for learners of all ethnicities and backgrounds. They offer an array of educational choices for adult learners, provide comprehensive support programs for all levels of academic preparation, and are California’s largest provider of career training.”

**Chancellor Sandra Serrano**  
Kern Community College District.