“Our task is not to select students who will be successful, but to make successful those who come.”

*From the San Diego Community College District Educational Master Plan based on comments by K. Patricia Cross, Ph.D.*
STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Maintain Proposition 98
Past waivers and the shifting of Proposition 98 funds from community colleges to K-12 have changed the proportion of funds that support student success in the community colleges. This has resulted in the loss of over $4 billion to the state’s community colleges—support that is badly needed by colleges that service the state’s growing immigrant and under-educated population. The SDCCD opposes any waiver of Proposition 98 funding requirements.

Discontinue Delays in State Apportionment Payments
The State deferrals of legally mandated state apportionment payments subject the SDCCD to annual financial losses up to $600,000 per year. The state does not reimburse the SDCCD for this loss.

Stabilize Property Tax Support Through State Backfill Reform
During times of state income reductions, the Department of Finance has over-estimated the contribution to local property taxes to public revenue and has reduced state allocations to the community colleges. Sudden drops in a district’s state apportionment allocation causing budgetary disruptions has been the result. For K-12, the state guarantees the shortfall. Legislative action is needed to backfill the loss of revenue for community colleges.

Amend AB 1290 to Include Maintenance Costs as Allowable Educational Capital Facilities Expenses
The SDCCD is, by law, entitled to a portion of the revenue from Redevelopment Agencies (RDA) to support “educational capital facilities”, per AB 1290. The SDCCD seeks to clarify ambiguities in the interpretation of language of what costs constitute support for “educational capital facilities” to include costs related to maintenance and improvement of capital facilities including utilities, custodial, grounds, and maintenance staff costs in support of those capital facilities.

Advocate for State Fiscal Hold Harmless for Three Years instead of One Year when Enrollment Suddenly Drops
Community College Districts used to have a three year declining enrollment adjustment procedure, through which the loss of apportionment revenue due to an enrollment decline would be spread over three (3) years. Several years ago, this procedure was eliminated and replaced with a one-year stability funding procedure. It will take legislative action to return to the previous 3-year declining enrollment funding method.

Support Continuation of Competitive Cal-Grant Funding
Cal Grants help the neediest community college students at a time when San Diego residents are deeply concerned with college affordability. Applications for financial aid are up 25%. Since the inception of the Cal-Grant program, several thousand SDCCD students have received grants of up to $1,551 for textbooks, transportation and supplies. These are generally older students whose income averages $14,000 and are ineligible for the state’s entitlement program because they worked between high school and college. This vital program should be continued.

Support Modification of the 50 Percent Law
The Legislature has commented that “quality and composition of full-time faculty have the most immediate and direct impact on the quality of instruction.” Although funding was initially provided for this initiative, state financial support has not continued. Additional state funding is needed to move all community college districts, including the SDCCD, to a full-time faculty percentage of approximately seventy-five percent.

Advocate for State Funding for increased Full-Time Faculty
The SDCCD supports the examination of the feasibility of offering a baccalaureate degree in selected high-need technical and vocational areas. Accredited baccalaureate degrees are offered in these kinds of programs by community colleges in seventeen states.


**FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

**Enact the American Graduation Initiative**

The American Graduation Initiative (AGI) would provide unprecedented federal support totaling $12 billion for community colleges to help return the nation to world leadership in higher education attainment by 2020. The AGI is a significant component of the FY 2010 budget reconciliation legislation (H.R. 3221: no Senate bill yet), which Congress should enact as soon as possible. Congress should provide the full $12 billion for AGI and final AGI legislation should allow community colleges to compete for grants throughout the ten-year program, rather than directing all grants to states for years 5-10 of the program, as in H.R. 3221. The matching requirement for these grants should be no more than 1 to 3. The SDCCD should be allowed to use facility funds as grants with a match of 3 to 1 by all non-federal sources. The misguided transfer reporting language in H.R. 3221 should be altered.

**Reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act**

Congress should reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) this year and preserve the Career Pathways Innovation Fund (CPIF) at $125 million to enhance the ability of workers to obtain postsecondary education and training. WIA reauthorization legislation should prioritize the community college role in delivering training services and deliver integrated support for adult basic education that emphasizes bridges to postsecondary education and training. The SDCCD and other public institutions of higher education should automatically be eligible training providers. The federal government should directly support One-Stop Career Centers rather than diverting resources from other critical programs.

**Support Community College Sustainability Initiatives**

The SDCCD supports the Community College Energy Training Act (S. 1097, H.R. 3731) which would authorize a competitive grant program for community colleges to develop their renewable energy training programs and related sustainability initiatives. Congress should support this legislation, which would expand community college capacity to provide workforce training and education in alternative energy, energy-efficient construction, sustainable energy technologies, and other “green” industries, and bolster college initiatives to improve sustainable practices on their campuses and in their communities.

**Support H.R. 2847 and H.R. 4196 to Help SDCCD Respond to Huge Demand for Education and Training**

During the past two years, the SDCCD has seen record enrollment increases as it has not been able to accommodate the tens of thousands of local residents seeking education and training due to unprecedented cuts in state and local budget reductions. As a result, the SDCCD cannot retain or hire sufficient numbers of faculty and staff to meet the student influx, denying access to thousands of students. The House-passed Jobs for Main Street Act (H.R. 2847) linked to the proposed $23 billion Education Jobs Fund would provide badly needed financial support. Therefore, H.R. 2847 should be enacted along with the Community College Emergency Stabilization Fund Act (H.R. 4196), which authorizes a new program designed specifically to help community colleges provide needed services to help mitigate the recession’s impact.

**Pass the DREAM Act**

The SDCCD supports the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act (H.R. 1751, S. 729) that provides a path to legal status for thousands of undocumented students who were brought to the U.S. as children, worked their way through high school, and now face an uncertain future. The DREAM Act would return to states the decision of whether to extend in-state tuition to undocumented students. The DREAM Act has bipartisan support and should be enacted now.

**Support for Federal Student Scholarships**

The SDCCD supports the establishment of a federal student scholarship program that is need based. As important as other forms of student assistance are in enabling students to enroll and stay in college, there are gaps in financial support for needy students. This is a particular problem in high cost of living states like California.

**Strengthen the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act Programs**

The SDCCD urges that the Congress continue its bipartisan support for the improvement of career and technical education (CTE) programs at the secondary and postsecondary levels by increasing funding for the Perkins CTE programs in FY 2011 to $1.4 billion. San Diego residents benefit from this technical education program. The Basic State Grant, Tech-Prep, and other Perkins programs help community colleges improve their CTE offerings that lead to high-demand, high-skilled occupations. Congress should maintain a separate line item for Tech-Prep.

**Extend and Improve Higher Education Tax Incentives**

The $2,500 American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC), included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, replaced the Hope Scholarship tax credit, but expires in 2010. The AOTC provides $2,500 each year, covers course materials as well as tuition, and is partially refundable—all extremely positive features. The Administration proposes to make the AOTC permanent and index it to inflation, which AACC and ACCT strongly support. The credit should be further improved to ensure that needy grant recipients, particularly Pell Grant recipients, are eligible for the credit. Current law largely precludes this.

**Improve the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)**

The reauthorized ESEA (“No Child Left Behind”) should reflect the critical role played by community colleges in working with the nation’s K-12 system. Community colleges have a great interest in partnering with the federal government through the ESEA to offer more dual-enrollment programs and early college high schools, as well as playing an enhanced role in teacher preparation and professional development linked to high standards. Community colleges support the Administration’s College Pathways and Accelerated Learning program, which is focused on dual enrollment and early-college high schools. The SDCCD is a regional leader in programs linking community college and K-12 education. More funding support is needed to strengthen student success through expanded K-14 collaborations.
The San Diego Community College District includes San Diego City College, San Diego Mesa College, San Diego Miramar College and San Diego Continuing Education. The SDCCD is governed by its Board of Trustees. No oral or written representation is binding on the San Diego Community College District without the express written approval of the Board of Trustees.