

For Immediate Release  
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**ALLIANCE FOR THE CSU CONTINUES ITS CAMPAIGN  
FOLLOWING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET REVISE**

**--The Alliance and Allies of the California State University  
Launch Another Full Week of Activity to Highlight the Importance of Fully  
Funding the Public Higher Education Budget for 2008-2009**

**-- State Legislature Is The New Focus of the Campaign--**

SACRAMENTO – Last week, the Governor revised his 2008/09 state funding plan for the California State University system to include a smaller cut (\$288 million instead of \$386 million) than what he originally proposed. The California Faculty Association called “a step in the right direction.”

This week, the Alliance for the CSU will continue its push for the remaining funds by informing the State Legislature about what is at stake.

If the full \$386 million is not restored, California's future economic health will be in danger. For every \$1 cut from the budget, our state economy will lose \$4.41 in economic activity. An entire generation of young people striving to attend college will be at risk of losing that opportunity.

The Alliance and its allies will organize events to educate our legislators about the dangers of balancing the state budget on the backs of students, their families, and the businesses that rely on the CSU for an educated work force.

**EVENTS THIS WEEK**

**-- Tuesday, May 20: A noon rally on SF City Hall steps preceding the 2 pm San Francisco Supervisors meeting.**

The Supervisors will hold a hearing on a resolution calling for the Governor and the State Legislature not to cut the CSU's budget and maintain the State's investment in the CSU and Community Colleges. The rally will feature SF Supervisor Tom Ammiano; Community College of SF Trustees; SF Labor Council leaders; American Federation of Teachers; the California Faculty Association; CSU Employees Union, SFSU; and SFSU & CCSF faculty, staff & students.

**-- Students for Quality Education “Speak Out Against the Budget Cuts” rallies on three CSU campuses.** Students will tell their own stories about how budget cuts to public higher education will impact them:

- \* Tuesday, May 20 at Cal Poly Pomona from 11:30 am-1:30 pm at the Quad on campus
- \* Wednesday, May 21 at CSU San Bernardino from Noon-1:30pm at the Library Lawn
- \* Thursday, May 22 at Cal State Los Angeles from Noon-1:30 in front of the Bookstore

**-- Friday, May 23, Noon, Student Union Room 311: How Local Businesses will be impacted by the budget cuts.**

CSU East Bay will hold a “Budget Crisis Community Meeting” with local business leaders, CSU faculty, administration, staff and students to discuss how cuts to CSU East Bay will affect the local business climate and economy. The meeting will take place at Noon at the Student Union Room 311. Media contact: Tom McCoy, professor, President CFA-CSU East Bay, 510-885-3189

**BACKGROUND**

**THE CSU IS ESSENTIAL TO CALIFORNIA’S ECONOMY**

Funding for the California State University should not be a difficult choice. It has been made plain many times, including in a new report prepared by the state’s former Director of Finance, Tim Gage, and his colleagues, that publicly funded higher education is a help, not a detriment, to a troubled economy.

The CSU is an economic driver. It grants some 90,000 four-year college degrees a year—half of all the degrees granted in California—in fields vital to our state’s businesses.

The CSU contributes to regional economies at a rate of \$4.41 for every \$1 spent by the state. From small shops in college towns to large suppliers of goods and services, such cuts would have a ripple effect through whole regions.

The CSU is a ladder of opportunity by putting degrees into the hands of people who in other states would never get them—people who with degrees pay more taxes, rely less on public assistance, participate more in their communities, are healthier, and pass these advantages to their children.

**THE PLANNED CUT IS SEVERE**

Five years ago, previous cuts to the CSU topped half a billion dollars. The governor’s funding increases since then have not even kept up with inflation, while 44,000 more students were added. Funding per student has actually decreased under this governor’s watch.

\$288 million is equivalent to the entire budgets combined of four California State University campuses — CSU Channel Islands, CSU Monterey Bay, CSU Bakersfield, and CSU Stanislaus. It like closing them completely, and more would still need to be cut.

Instead of closing campuses, the CSU would spread the cuts to all campuses resulting in fewer courses offered and larger classes that are harder to get. This means students will take more than four years to graduate, run up more debt and take longer to enter the workforce where they are needed as nurses, teachers, engineers, and professionals of all kinds.

Thousands more high school graduates and community college transfers will be turned away. Fees will go up and more students will drop out.

The outcome of this budget debate will determine the future of the California State University, its 420,000 students, some 50,000 employees, and millions of future students it might — or might not — serve.

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*Learn more about the California Faculty Association at [www.calfac.org](http://www.calfac.org)*

*See the Tim Gage/Blue Sky Consulting Group report “Examining the Fiscal, Economic, and Social Impacts of the California State University,” at <http://www.calfac.org/csureport.html>*

*Learn more about the CSU and its budget at [www.alliancefortheesu.org](http://www.alliancefortheesu.org)*