

For Immediate Release
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Rally for SF Supervisors Resolution saying: 'No Budget Cuts for SF State U, City College of SF'

SAN FRANCISCO—The San Francisco Board of Supervisors today will take up a resolution to join the ever-growing campaign to oppose budget cuts to California's public higher education system.

Supervisor Tom Ammiano will join students, faculty members and staff from San Francisco State University and City College of San Francisco at a rally before participating in a Board hearing on his resolution on state funding for the California State University and community college systems.

The resolution calls for the governor and state legislature to maintain the state's investment in higher education in the 2008/09 state budget. SFSU and CCSF are local higher education segments that rely on state funding.

While the governor took an important step to keep the doors open for students, the revised budget plan still would cut more than \$400 million from community colleges and nearly \$300 million from the California State University.

These large cuts could have severe impacts on the affordability and accessibility of higher education to millions of students in the state and will impact California's economic future.

In San Francisco alone, 140,000 students attend either City College or SF State, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college. Cuts to SF State and City College mean it will be harder for students to get a college education, particularly students from underserved communities in our growing, diverse population.

The proposed state funding cuts would create an \$8 million hole in City College's 2008/09 budget. SF State would lose \$10 million and, barring action by the legislature, CSU student fees will rise 10% as well. (The governor does not propose a hike in community college student fees.)

The impact at both campuses will be larger class sizes, longer lines, fewer course offerings, and fewer student services – all of which translates to a longer time to graduations for City College and SF State students.

City College and SF State are major employers in the City—they employ more than 6700 faculty members and staff. Cuts to City College and SF State undermine both our local economy and revenue to the state.

"SF State and City College are major providers of San Francisco jobs with decent wages and benefits. What a steel mill is to a steel town, public higher education is to San Francisco. Cuts to these jobs hurt all of San Francisco," said Ramon Castellblanch, an

SFSU professor who is a leader of the Alliance for the CSU and the California Faculty Association.

Both campuses are the major supplier of graduates into the state's workforce, budget cuts to the CCC and CSU systems will have an impact on key industries in California. The CCC and CSU systems graduate the majority of the state's teachers, nurses, engineers and business professionals.

In San Francisco, SFSU and CCSF provide the bulk of the workforce in some of our emerging new industries such as green tech and stem cell research. They provide a return of over \$4 to the California economy for every \$1 invested.

Speakers and participants at today's rally include:

- SF Supervisor Tom Ammiano
- Aaron Salazar, SFSU student
- Antonio Garcia & Shawn Yee, CCSF students
- CCSF Trustees Lawrence Wong, Julio Ramos, Anita Grier, John Rizzo
- SF Labor Council leader Tim Paulson & former leader Walter Johnson
- Pablo Rodriguez & Ed Murray, American Federation of Teachers, CCSF
- Russell Kilday Hickes, CSU Employees Union, SFSU
- Ramon Castellblanch, SFSU professor, Cal. Faculty Assoc.

The resolution is co-sponsored by San Francisco Supervisors Tom Ammiano, Sean Elsbernd, and Bevan Dufty.

The rally is sponsored by California Faculty Association (SFSU), California State University Employees Union (SFSU) and American Federation of Teachers Local 2121 (CCSF).

Learn more about the plan to cut the SFSU budget at www.alliancefortheesu.org

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