



2024 STATE

LEGISLATIVE

Priorities



CITRUS COLLEGE

Founded in 1915, Citrus College is the oldest community college in Los Angeles County and the fifth oldest in California. Citrus College provides students with quality educational experiences and support services that lead to the successful completion of degrees, transfer, certificates, career/technical education and basic skills proficiency. The college fosters academic and career success through the development of critical thinking, effective communication, creativity and cultural awareness in a safe, accessible and affordable learning environment. In meeting the needs of our demographically diverse student population, we embrace equity and accountability through measurable learning outcomes, ethical data-driven decisions and student achievement.

In order to support the mission of Citrus College, we engage in state legislative advocacy efforts. Citrus College has identified key priorities that directly benefit our unique student population, support our staff and faculty, and foster long-term financial sustainability. Our legislative priorities guide the college's advocacy engagement and allow the college's staff - as well as our advocates in Sacramento - to act expeditiously on state budget and policy issues that impact the college and the California community colleges system. It is important to note that this document is not an all-inclusive list of the issues we engage in and advocate for, and it may change and evolve as new issues emerge throughout the year.

1. Students' Basic Need:

At Citrus College, we take pride in our efforts to provide students with the support they need to reach their educational goals. We know that success and achievement are directly related to a student's access to basic needs, including, but not limited to, food, housing, childcare, mental health services, technology, transportation and other social support services. We will advocate for state support to continue to provide and bolster basic needs for our students, as data shows the more access they have to these critical services, the more likely they are to be successful in attaining their educational goals

2. Noncredit and Workforce Development:

Citrus College provides valuable noncredit courses to the community, and we plan to expand these courses in the future. This will support students wishing to continue to credit enrollment, further strengthening the connection between a skilled workforce and local industries. We will advocate to ensure noncredit students have fair access to all relevant funding streams. Citrus College supports the continued fair and equitable funding of noncredit education under the Student-Centered Funding Formula (SCFF). We are also supportive of creating a legislative change to allow career development and college preparation (CDCP) classes to be funded by census date, as is currently the practice with credit classes. Citrus College appreciates the investment the state is making in workforce development through the Strong Workforce Program and will advocate for future investment in this area.

3. Fiscal Stability:

As the state faces a large budget deficit, California community colleges face uncertainty regarding long-term fiscal stability. We continue to see increases to our CalSTRS and CalPERS retirement benefit contribution rates due to the underfunding of pension plans at the state level, a lack of full funding for deferred maintenance, and infrastructure and facility needs. The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office has recommended that districts plan ahead for long-term ongoing liabilities by setting funds aside now, and Citrus College is doing just that. However, we request and strongly support continued state investment to help offset these cost pressures and provide our system with fiscal stability. This includes support for cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for all categorical funding, full funding for deferred maintenance, and state contributions to CalSTRS and CalPERS.

4. Statewide Facilities Bond:

The last statewide K-14 facilities bond was passed by California voters on the November 2016 ballot. Proposition 51 authorized \$7 billion in general obligation bonds for the construction and modernization of public school facilities, which included \$2 billion for California community colleges facilities. According to the Public Policy Institute of California, "Proposition 51 was the first statewide school bond passed since Proposition 1D in 2006 and the first one that was not placed on the ballot by the legislature." Citrus College has several pending facility projects on campus, including the construction of a new Career Technical Education (CTE) Building and a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Building. The new CTE Building will replace current outdated spaces for instruction and provide new classroom and laboratory spaces designed to accommodate future programmatic needs and educational technologies. The new STEM Building will include multiple upgrades for all science-related disciplinary programs and will feature new classrooms, labs, and interactive teaching and learning spaces. In order to address the facilities needs of Citrus College, local voters approved Measure Y in November 2020, which authorized \$298 million in general obligation bonds. Citrus College needs to utilize these funds, along with state bond dollars, to complete facilities projects on campus. We support a legislative-initiated statewide K-14 education facilities bond to best leverage local funds and meet current and future needs of our student population.

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