Date: November 21, 2008
To: Citrus College Community and Other Interested Parties
From: Geraldine M. Perri, Superintendent/President
Subject: Budget Update

State Budget

As many of you are aware, the state budget situation continues to grow more serious with each passing week. As a recap, earlier this month the Governor called a special session of the state Legislature to address the state’s emerging shortfall. Revenues of the state continue to plummet as a result of the declining housing and stock markets. The Governor has proposed $4.7 billion in new taxes and $4.5 billion in budget cuts.

For community colleges, the Governor is proposing to cut $39.8 million which represents the remaining funded 0.68% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). In addition, the Governor is proposing a 5% cut to each district’s general apportionment for a total reduction statewide of $292.4 million. This reduction to community colleges will lead to a reduction of 165,000 full-time equivalent students (FTES) or close to nearly one quarter million students across the state.

Citrus College Budget

The Governor’s proposed reduction will have a significant impact on Citrus College. Early indications note a reduction of $3.3 million to the college’s general fund. This reduction is compounded by over $2 million in deficit spending for the 2008-09 academic year which must also be reduced.

Our college community is in the process of identifying budget priorities for the remainder of the 2008-09 academic year and strategies for both budget reductions and alternative means to revenue generation. Utmost attention will be given to developing a reduction plan which facilitates meeting our 2008-09 enrollment goal which includes 2% growth in Full-Time Equivalent Students (FTES). Please know that the college will proceed with its Winter Intersession while some class reductions will occur.
As Superintendent/President, I call upon every member of the Citrus College community to assist in these difficult budget times. I ask you to adopt an attitude of collaboration and to work in a spirit of collegiality as we together work to face this most difficult and challenging budget crisis in our state.

I will continue to keep you apprised of the state budget situation and our college's plan for budget reductions once it is developed. I thank you in advance for your support and help in this matter.

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