Dear Colleagues:

As you know, the State Legislature has approved major revisions to the current (2008-2009) state budget and a spending plan for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. While the new budget as a whole poses significant challenges for Citrus College and community colleges throughout the state, it is a good one under the circumstances. Our local and statewide advocacy effectively influenced the state leaders who negotiated this budget deal and placed a very high priority on ensuring that community colleges are able to meet an increased enrollment demand. As a result, we successfully defeated several budget measures, such as the proposed increase in student fees and the proposed elimination of Competitive Cal Grants.

I invite you to join me, Vice President Horton, and members of President's Cabinet for an All-Campus Budget Update Forum will be held Thursday, February 26, 2009, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Center for Innovation Community Room 159. The forum will provide an opportunity for us to share the impact of the state budget on Citrus College and allow us to dialogue about our plans for providing access for our students and members of the community.

Some highlights of the new state budget items that directly affect community colleges are:

**2008-2009**

- $39.8 million cut to eliminate the 0.68 percent COLA
- $3.6 million reduction to capture unspent prior-year funds
- $4 million cut to mandate payments
- $340 million in apportionment funding deferred from January, February, March and April to be repaid in July. This new deferral is likely to be a permanent feature of our budget.
- Repayment of the existing $200 million June to July referral has been delayed to October. This change is also assumed permanent.

**2009-2010**

- No COLA
- A $185.4 million augmentation to fund 3% enrollment growth, enough for 36,000 new full-time equivalent students
- Categorical flexibility provisions are not included
- Student fees were not increased
- Cal Grant program funding was maintained and the proposal to eliminate new Competitive Cal Grants was rejected
In addition, the budget places a measure on the May 19, 2009, ballot where voters can vote to repay K-12 and community colleges $9.3 billion over seven years beginning in 2011-12.

Once again, I look forward to sharing more details of this budget with you at our forum on Thursday, February 26, 2009, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Center for Innovation Community Room 159.

Sincerely,

Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President

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