

Citrus College

# 2025 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 Needs:

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, healthcare, mental health services, technology, transportation and other critical social support services. We will advocate for state support and policies that continue to provide and bolster basic needs for our students. According to the California Community College's Chancellor's Office 2024 Basic Needs Services Centers Report, "Data supports that California community college students receiving these services are succeeding academically at a rate exceeding the general California community college student body."

## 2. Noncredit and Workforce Development:

Citrus College provides valuable noncredit courses to the community, and we plan to continue to expand these courses in the future. Noncredit courses 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 the same relevant funding streams and resources as credit students. Citrus College supports the continued fair and equitable funding of credit and noncredit education under the Student-Centered Funding Formula (SCFF), as well as continued investment with cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) for the California Adult Education Program (CAEP). 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 past investments the state has made in workforce development through the Strong Workforce Program and will continue to advocate for future investment in this Program. Additionally, credit for prior learning (CPL) is one way we can support students to obtain college credit for knowledge and skills they already possess. Citrus College supports CPL, as this will greatly promote student success by lessening the time and financial resources needed to complete on their educational path.

### **3. Long-Term System Fiscal Stability:**

As the state faces large budget deficits each year, 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 other 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 (COLA) for all categorical funding, full funding for deferred maintenance, and state contributions to CalSTRS and CalPERS. Finally, Citrus College supports the priorities set forth by the Community College League of California as described in the November 2024 "Fiscal and Policy Talking Points."



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