Community college funding looks more promising thanks to passage of Prop. 30

Proposal to increase online courses causes some concern

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More students expected
The increased funding would also allow thousands of students to re-enter the system. Nearly 500,000 students had been turned away over the past four years due to the state's financial crisis, according to the chancellor's office.

In addition, colleges can also expect $179 million in funding that had been deferred during the recession, leaving them with less debt.

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Faculty leads effort to make public higher ed affordable for all students

Aim is to spark national debate

WITH STUDENT DEBT MOUNTING and the costs of college going out of reach for families, faculty across the United States are developing proposals that would once again make public funded higher education accessible to all.

The faculty-driven effort, sponsored by the two-year-old Campaign for the Future of Higher Education, aims to spark a national discussion of the issue.

Among the organizations taking part in the campaign is CCA and the California Faculty Association, which represents faculty in the California State University system. In February, the Campaign publicly unveiled three working papers containing proposals that would make higher education free to all.

The release of the proposals was timed to coincide with the Feb. 12 birthday of Abraham Lincoln, who in the midst of the Civil War, provided the first wave of funding for federal land grant colleges.

Land grant colleges
Sponsored by Vermont Congressman Justin Morrill in 1862, the Morrill Act initiated America's public higher education system by helping to endow colleges in every state that were accessible to the "sons of toil."

"Yet today, we are tearing down this very system of education. Legions of self-styled education leaders and consultants have declared that we just can't afford it anymore. We in the CFHE believe that is just wrong," said Lillian Taiz, president of the 23,000-member CFA. "What we are missing is the commitment and courage that Lincoln and Morrill had."

Two of the CFHE working papers address the common assumption that funding higher education through public means rather than through skyrocketing tuition is simply impossible. One explores the notion of free higher education and examines what the actual cost to provide such an ideal would be. The papers can be viewed at http://futureofhighered.org.

Reallocate funds
Bob Samuels, a University of California faculty member in San Diego, argues we could make big strides towards free public higher education by reallocating current governmental expenditures for higher education and by eliminating regressive tax breaks.

The second paper, using the state of California as a test case,
Seventeen reasons to be proud of our accomplishments

President reflects on three terms in office

By Ron Norton Reel  CCA President

AS I WIND UP THREE TERMS AS YOUR CCA PRESIDENT.

I find myself reflecting on what we’ve done together these past six years. It’s been a tumultuous time for faculty and community colleges in California, but there is much to be proud of through those years. I might have chosen 10, I could have chosen 20, but instead, I’ll share with you “Ron Reel’s List of CCA’s Top 17 Accomplishments.”

1. CCA now has more recognition in Sacramento. I believe we are listened to and that legislators look to us for answers when they confront community college issues.

2. CCA conferences are better than ever because we listened to members and paid attention to evaluations. We make sure to hold our conferences in places where people want to go and that they provide incredible information to participants.

3. CCA has converted 13 chapters to agency fee, which means our members are getting more information, more services and more representation from us.

4. I’m the first CCA president to have visited every single one of our community colleges. Some of you I’ve visited once, some several times depending what is going on, but it has been a delight.

5. CCA has created Local Chapter membership awards. Our chapters are the lifeblood of CCA and we want to make sure they feel a part of the larger picture.

6. CCA introduced the Building Strong Locals academy at our conferences. Through this valuable year-long training for local leaders, we are strengthening our chapters and our organization.

7. We created our History Makers video and book, which includes interviews with many of our former presidents and staff about the founding of our organization. This gives us a visual legacy of our history.

8. We initiated our Union Hero Awards – The David A. Sanchez GLBT Award, the Mary Ann Pacheco Ethnic Minority Award, and the David Milroy Part-time faculty award. Our chapters are the lifeblood of CCA and we want to make sure they feel a part of the larger picture.

9. CCA became financially independent in 2005 and in so doing, built a contingency fund of $700,000 that we can use to help local chapters in crisis.

10. You as an organization decided to use contingency funds to help a member in crisis. This occurred when one of our presidents was removed from teaching for a semester without pay for union activity. We made sure he was able to get by through some financial assistance. We take care of our own.

11. We were able to purchase a condo in Sacramento that has enabled the organization to save money on hotel costs. The condo was purchased two years ago for $245,000 and is currently valued at $330,000.

12. CCA produced “Did You Know?” commercials in 2011 which featured messages about the importance of community colleges in California. They were aired on cable stations around the state.

13. CCA has become a more transparent organization that knows where our money is being spent. Our budget practices now include line items for our major expenditures.

Your work to pass Prop. 30 and defeat Prop. 32 will make a difference to all of our students.

14. We stood up to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) when it threatened Solano College with closure due to alleged financial improprieties. We demonstrated that the college was not $1.6 million over budget, as the commission suggested, but $36,000 in arrears – a far cry from what had been charged. As a result, Solano was removed from “Show Cause” and each one of the commissioners resulting in a meeting with the entire ACCJC board about overstepping its authority on Student Learning Outcomes. We believe SLOs should be bargained at each college. This was the first and only time the commission allowed a community college organization to address them.

15. We made inroads to unite full-time and part-time faculty within our organization. Our interests are not different. I know I am leaving this organization in a place where we know that faculty issues are all faculty issues.

16. CCA members and chapters participated in a big way in the 2012 campaign. Your work to pass Prop. 30 and defeat Prop. 32 will make a difference to all of our students.

The Community College Association exists to protect and promote the well-being of its members through collective bargaining, lobbying and representation activities, thereby advancing universal and quality public education.

It is an affiliate of the California Teachers Association and the National Education Association.

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The CCA Advocate is published by the Community College Association and the Communications Department of the California Teachers Association, 1705 Murchinson Drive, Burlingame, CA 94010, (650) 697-1400. Publication of advertising in CCA Advocate does not indicate CCA or CTA approval of the advertised product or any of the companies who purchase advertising.

The CCA Advocate is also available online at the CCA Web site: www.cca4me.org

CCA Calendar of Events

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<tr>
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<td>CCA Spring Conference and WHO Awards</td>
<td>Hyatt Regency Mission Bay, San Diego</td>
<td>April 26-29, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTA President’s Conference</td>
<td>Asilomar, Monterey</td>
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Contact 650/577-5184 CTA Regional Resource Center (CCA) or register online at www.CCA4me.org.

The CCA Advocate is also available online at the CCA Web site: www.cca4me.org
CCA/CTA’s strategic planning process lays the groundwork for the future

WINTER CONFERENCE

Conference-goers learn importance of electing faculty-friendly candidates

CCA-backed officials share their thoughts

WHY SHOULD LOCAL CCA CHAPTERS spend time, energy and money to help elect faculty-friendly candidates to public office? Because they will listen to you. That’s the message of two trustees and a local state senator who shared their experiences as elected officials during CCA’s Winter Conference in Costa Mesa.

Officials hold forth

Trustees Mary Figueroa of the Riverside Community College District and T.J. Prendergast III of the South Orange County Community College District both discussed their roles on local college boards, while in a separate lunchtime session, state Sen. Marty Block, (D-San Diego) talked about positive changes that have occurred in the state Legislature since November’s election. A third trustee, Susan Keith of Citrus Community College, was unable to attend in person, but sent responses to written questions that were relayed by CCA Board member John Fincher of Citrus College.

“You’re not going to get everything you want, but you have someone on the board who listens,” Prendergast said. “I know I am very open to the faculty association. They were instrumental in backing my election.”

Prendergast, a high school social studies teacher in Irvine, was elected in 2010 with help from CTA’s political action committee and numerous fund-raisers. In the period since his election, the board has gone from a 4-3 faculty-friendly majority to a 6-1 majority. Figueroa, who recently retired from her corrections counseling position with the California Institution for Men in Chino, has served on the board for five terms. She said about five percent of her campaign funds were from CTA’s political action committee.

“I’m definitely an advocate on communications,” Figueroa said. “But one of the weaknesses is that once communications between trustee and staff has begun, the administration goes nuts!”

You’re the voting public

But, she told faculty, “You’re the voting public so we represent you as much as others.”

Still, both trustees noted that it is not the job of the board to micromanage college business. If an issue comes up, it’s important for board members to take it up with the chancellor or superintendant, as a courtesy.

E-mail is one of the best ways to communicate with board members, both Figueroa and Prendergast noted, but it’s also important to build relationships.

“It’s almost no different than building friendships in life,” Fincher said, reading Keith’s response. “You go out for breakfast or lunch, and you assure everyone that bargaining is being conducted in good faith and that it is not full of ‘gotchas.’”

As a trustee, Figueroa reminded the audience she must think about what’s best for the entire district, and that is always primary in her mind. She takes her board commitment seriously, and as a corrections counselor, would drive from Chino to Riverside to attend a meeting. She observed that when her constituents would ask why she’d make the two-hour drive for a meeting, she would say, “Because in prisons, it’s hopeless, but when I go to the community college, I get to see you, and I see the hope and vision and future for people who want to learn and who want to be educated. That’s why I do it.”

Encouraging changes

Block, a retired professor and dean at San Diego State University, was encouraged by the fact that the Legislature does not have to make devastating cuts to education this year. Furthermore, he predicted that the environment would not be as contentious in Sacramento as it has been.

Whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, you have to recognize we will be more efficient and that the gridlock is over,” he said.

While pundits have cautioned Democrats to be prudent and not “overreach” now that there is a Democratic majority, Block said he had concerns about “under-reaching” as well, and that it is time to rebuild education in the state.

“Things are looking better,” he said.

AS CTA MARKS its 150th anniversary this year, the organization is taking a long look toward the future.

What will our union look like in five years? CCA/CTA is embarking on a strategic planning process to answer that question for current and future members.

“It’s time to look at what we do and how we do it,” said CTA President Dean Vogel. “It’s time to hold on to what’s working and not be afraid to cast away what’s not — even if it means doing things differently than we’ve always done them.”

Sacred cows

Every “sacred cow” will be scrutinized, said Theresa Montaño, the CTA Board member representing higher education. Even after the first meeting of the CTA Strategic Planning Committee on Aug. 18, Montaño said, “People were very honest about the changes and directions our organization should move, because it’s not just CTA, it’s about public education and the role CTA plays in saving public education in California.”

Representing CCA on the committee is Julius Thomas, CCA Board member for ethnic and racial minorities.

“I think anytime an organization carefully assesses itself, its strengths and its shortcomings, it makes for a better operation, and makes members more responsive,” Thomas said. “Many of our issues and concerns, from K-12 to higher education are universal, so it’s been very encouraging to see that and to work together.”

Working with CTA is the Labor Education Research Center at the University of Oregon, which will help facilitate the process. The center is recognized for its expertise in strategic planning and for work with labor unions across the country.

Online surveys

Already, members and staff have been participating in an online survey that has afforded them the opportunity to voice their opinion about what is important to them and how CTA can best serve their needs.

The process is expected to create more effective relationships with community allies, refine CCA/CTA’s public image, set priorities, and focus resources, in line with the theme: “Your Voice. Our Union. Our Future.”

“I ask you to be part of this conversation,” Vogel said. “Building this strategic plan is our opportunity to embrace new ideas, engage new members, and build the CTA we all want, the CTA our members want, for our future.”

For more information on CCA/CTA’s Strategic Planning process, see www.cta.org/strategiplan.
CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

CCA to hold election for officers, Board members at Spring Conference
Would-be officers have their say

DELEGATES TO THE CCAA SPRING CONFERENCE in San Diego from April 26-28 will have the opportunity to vote for CCAA President, Vice President and the directors of Districts C (1), E, F, H, I (1), I (3), J, CCA Northern Part-time Faculty, and Women’s Director.

If you are interested in declaring your candidacy for one of these positions, you can download the Declaration of Candidacy form from the CCA website www.cca4me.org or contact Bonita Lovell at the CCA office, 916-288-4921 or by email blovell@cca.org. To be a candidate as an Officer you must be a CCA/CTA/NEA dues paying member in good standing at one of the CCA Chapters.

To be a candidate as a Director you must be a CCA/CTA/NEA dues paying member in good standing at one of the CCA Chapters within the Directorial District. The Racial/Ethnic Minority Director shall be a member of a racial/ethnic minority group as defined by CTA/NEA specifications (African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, or Hispanic); To be a candidate for the Women’s Director you must be a woman. The Part-Time Faculty Directors shall be part-time faculty members.

The deadline for submitting the Declaration of Candidacy form is April 1, 2013. After March 20th 2009, the Declarations of Candidacy will only be accepted electronically. All seats are two-year terms commencing June 1, 2013 and terminating May 31, 2015.

Running for president in a contested race are CCA Vice President Lynette Nyaggah and Secretary DeWayne Sheaffer. Following are unedited campaign statements submitted by the candidates, limited to 400 words.

Download the Declaration of Candidacy form and the election announcement from the CCA website at www.cca4me.org.

I want to make us more transparent and give our membership a clear role in funding decisions. We must always remember that every time we spend money in CCA, it comes from you, and we must be responsible about how we spend it. I am committed to more effective outreach to our members. I promise to visit your campuses and meet your members personally so that they know who is speaking for them across the state. I promise to respond to you quickly and to find ways to set up two-way communication. I want to listen to your ideas and make them part of the plan for our union.

I want to devise ways to use your talents and expertise in new initiatives to strengthen our union, and I am committed to encouraging leadership among our members who may never have thought of being leaders. Most importantly, I promise to work with you.

You are the key to everything I will do as CCAA President. Without your support, I cannot be an effective leader. In short, you are the reason I am running. We share a love of teaching and a love of our students. Together, we will embrace the new day that’s dawning!

CCAdvocate MARCH 2013

I, with many of our members continue to be concerned about the future of CCA and developing leaders that will serve the CCA Board and our members well. The faces currently sitting on the CCA Board because of term limits will soon change, and there must be individuals ready to commit to doing the work. I have been a local chapter president of a relatively large CCA Chapter. I have worked with local political negotiations. As a statewide leader, I have been a part of many discussions that directly and indirectly affect our CCA Organization. I have spoken before the Chancellor’s Office Consultation meetings, before the legislature, and carried the CCA message before the meetings of the Student Success Task Force. My public speaking skills allow me to use humor when needed and to use words of caution when they are needed.

Currently CCA is at a crossroad. Several issues are facing this organization as we move into the future. CTA is going through a reorganization that has had an uncertain impact on CCA without consultation. The servicing of local chapters by CTA is of paramount importance. CCA must insist that all staff servicing our chapters are trained in community college budgeting principles, and understand the community college structure. Now, more than ever, a leader should rise from our organization that can and will lead through these turbulent times and into a place of meeting the needs of our members. I will “Stand Tall” for the organization in any given venue. In being a good leader one must not let fear guide the decision making process. Facts, logic, and working with others will guide one to the right decision.

I will continue to build relationships and coalitions with the leadership at our locals, with CTA Board members, the NEA leadership, and other faculty/labor organizations that support the goals of CCA.

If I am elected CCAA President, I will ensure that there will be transparency of exactly how member’s dues are spent, demand competent Local Leadership Support, and establish communication with and commitment to all members as it relates to the effectiveness of The Community College Association. I will stay focused on those issues that define CAA. I will celebrate what we do well, and enhance what needs improving. I will stand up to any organization that tries to remove or diminish the purpose and power of CCA.

DeWayne Sheaffer

Candidates for CCA President

DeWayne Sheaffer

I am Lynette Nyaggah, candidate for CCAA President. I come from a family of teachers and union supporters whose belief in unionism and devotion to teaching prepared me for my role as an activist and advocate. I am your colleague and a professor- leader. I began my CCAA work as a Board member representing Rio Hondo and neighboring colleges. Then, I became your CCAA Treasurer, committed to processing your reimbursement payments immediately. I became your CCAA Vice President, committed to focusing on our locals and building membership and political involvement. Now I am now committed to serving you as your next CCAA president.

I want to make CCAA stronger. I believe CCAA will become stronger as it continues to strengthen its alliances with its partners: students, administrators, trustees, and community and labor groups. As CCAA president, I will continue the good relationships we have cultivated with other faculty unions and groups, and I will build a constructive relationship with CTA, as an equal partner in our fight for faculty rights. We must work together as much as possible for a stronger voice.

I want to make CCAA more responsive to its members.

Lynette Nyaggah

I want to make us more transparent and give our membership a clear role in funding decisions. We must always remember that every time we spend money in CCA, it comes from you, and we must be responsible about how we spend it. I am committed to more effective outreach to our members. I promise to visit your campuses and meet your members personally so that they know who is speaking for them across the state. I promise to respond to you quickly and to find ways to set up two-way communication. I want to listen to your ideas and make them part of the plan for our union.

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Lynette Nyaggah

Candidate for CCA President

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed are those of the candidates and not necessarily CCA.
Contingent faculty find unity at COCAL

It’s time to professionalize all faculty

By John Martin
CCA Director
Northern Part-time Faculty

THANKS TO CCA, I was privileged to attend the 10th biannual conference of the Coalition for Contingent Academic Labor (COCAL) which met at the National Autonomous University of Mexico in Mexico City for four days in August. The conference is an international gathering of faculty from United States, Canada, Mexico and even one from Korea.

This gathering is a place to meet and hear the ranks of part-time faculty from community colleges and universities on issues regarding attacks on higher education and contingent, non-tenure track faculty throughout the industrialized world.

Scores of workshops

There were scores of workshops there as well as various thematic workshops throughout the conference from such topics on health/social security and retirement; academic advancements/evaluations and recognition; unions/organizations; labor rights/contracts; union/political/cultural rights; and forms of struggle and achievement.

Some noteworthy quotes jotted down while I was there: “Teaching is a strategic profession and it should not be marginalized.” “Teaching is not a hobby and should never be treated as one.” “The victims of precarious workers are students.” “Education is public property.” “The fragile nature of the work is due to the fragile conditions of the protected against the non-protected.”

Professional faculty

It was made clear throughout the conference that the central job of every country and union is to “professionalize” all faculty because that is what is necessary for student success. Although this is certainly a labor issue, it must become a student issue first. It was stressed that “All faculty working conditions are tied to students learning conditions” and that the rise of “neo-liberalism” [market capitalism] and globalization is driving the move toward more precarious workers and ultimately toward privatization.

This one theme was central for me. One speaker commented that neo-liberal arguments are resonating due to the economy with more contingent academic laborers, less resources to teach and a sustained unrelenting attack on public institutions and public workers. That “austerity” is the natural plan wanted by capitalists with a market-based model to privatize public services and education. Austerity policies (beyond neo-liberalism) will move us to fascism and “barbaric capitalism.”

Huge increase in part-time

Case in point: it was stated that in the last 40 years there has been a huge increase of contingent academic laborers. They have been exploited through low wages, lack of benefits and job security. Statistics show that nationally there has been a 60 percent growth in part-time staff in the last 12 years while simultaneously increasing tuition representing both the starvation and exploitation of labor.

A speaker from British Columbia described the “ghettoization of faculty” and how it bodes sadly for the future. In BC, they use a variety of terms to describe part-time faculty, including non-regular faculty, adjuncts, contingents, provisional and part-time. There has been no recent hiring of full-time tenure track faculty

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Southwest chapter rolls the union on

Following death of campus activist, Southwest chapter rolls the union on

Phil Lopez was formidable figure

THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF A UNION BROTHER and colleague is always a shock, but the members of the Southwestern College Faculty Association were taught well by longtime faculty activist Phil Lopez, and have stepped up to fill the void.

Lopez, a formidable figure and occasional thorn in the side of college administrators, died of a massive heart attack in December, just hours after completing a successful contract negotiating session on behalf of faculty. The English professor passed away a day before his 65th birthday. As the campus newspaper, the Southwestern Sun observed, for the past 27 years, Lopez had been either the union president, vice president or secretary. He also regularly attended CCA conferences and spoke out on many issues and on many occasions.

In 2009, he and three colleagues were suspended in a free speech incident that garnered national attention. The faculty leaders were given two-week furloughs for their involvement in a campus protest over the cancellation of 400 course sections. Although the administration had threatened him with criminal charges, Lopez was reinstated and the incident became a catalyst for the faculty association to run their own candidates for the board of trustees.

Robert Unger, (from left) Rob Shaffer, Eric Maag, Frank Post, Tinh Khuong, Caree Lesh, Steven Detsch and Josue Arredondo are among the Southwestern College Education Association members who will roll the union on.

A union champion

"He was our union champion and lion," said Josue Arredondo, an adjunct English professor who has been teaching three years at Southwestern. "At his funeral we sang union songs like 'Hallelujah I'm a Bum' and 'Get The Bosses Off Our Backs.'"

Lopez's death occurred a month after a successful election in which the faculty association joined with the local labor council to pass Prop. 30, defeat Prop. 32 and elect two more faculty-friendly trustees to the community college board to make a four-trustee majority on the board.

"Phil would open up his yellow house for phone banking. We went to his house the night of the election. He was always an advocate for faculty. We'll miss him, but we know we have to step up," said Arredondo, who, true to his promise, was attending CCA's Winter Conference as a first-time delegate.

Recently, when the college administration was putting pressure on faculty to make changes in order to appease the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), Arredondo recalls Lopez exclaiming, "I'm not afraid of Barbara Beno!" in reference to the chair of the commission.

Everyone has rights

"Phil taught us that you always have to look at everyone's rights," said Frank Post, an adaptive technology specialist who became involved in the faculty association as a part-time instructor in 1996. "You can't ignore issues. You have to stand up for them."

Post noted that Southwestern has both equity on the pay scale and vesting rights for adjunct faculty, at least partly because of Lopez's determination.

Carol Stuardo, a part-time instructor, said Lopez understood the importance of adjunct faculty, and during one of his terms as president advocated that no full-time faculty would get overload until all vested part-time faculty received at least one class.

"It wasn't necessarily a popular position," she said, "but he stuck to it, regardless of the ramifications."

Some faculty like chemistry professor Tinh Khuong, weren't exactly sure of Lopez at first. "I didn't like him initially. He was brash and I wasn't sure I wanted him representing me. But I got to know him and realized he was super honest, good with numbers, supportive and a great resource. He knew the Ed Code and he was fearless," Khuong said.

The association's new treasurer, Khuong says she still has a lot to learn, but he'll be better in his job because of Lopez.

"The union wouldn't be what it is now without him," he said.

Part-time

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in order to save money. However, they have been increasing administrative staff. Sound familiar? The problems they face are not uncommon or unfamiliar for all of us in the states: integration of non-regular faculty into the community, the marginalization of faculty who cannot make financial commitments and a negative atmosphere of the academic institution in general are the norm. BC is working toward pro-rata salary while facing the fact that all employers are looking to save money on the backs of faculty.

Our struggle is yours

The COCAL experience is one where all faculty can gain insight into the plight of higher education and the global future of progressive thought. The struggle of part-time faculty is the struggle for all faculty, students and higher education in general.

The next COCAL will likely be held in early August, 2014 and will be hosted by CUNY in New York City.