

**DESERT COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

AGENDA ITEM

Date of Meeting February 11, 2011

Area Board of Trustees

Communication No. 3

TOPIC: Resolution #219 in Support of California Community Colleges

PROPOSAL

To adopt a resolution in support of California Community Colleges budget priorities and principles.

BACKGROUND

California's higher education system is in a crisis situation due to the Governor's proposed budget. California community colleges would face a \$400 million in state general fund cuts.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

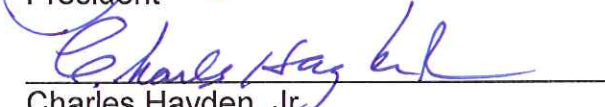
It is recommended that the Board of Trustees of the Desert Community College District adopt Resolution #219.

Prepared by:



Jerry R. Patton
President

Approved by:



Charles Hayden, Jr.
Board Chair

**DESERT COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
COLLEGE OF THE DESERT
RESOLUTION # 219**

**Resolution in Support of California Community Colleges
Budget Priorities and Principles**

WHEREAS, California's higher education system is in a crisis situation with insufficient resources at a time of record demand due to high school graduates and unemployed residents seeking retraining; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Proposed Budget seeks a balanced approach of making \$12.5 billion in spending cuts and asking the voters to extend temporary tax increases totaling \$12 billion for five years; and

WHEREAS, under the Governor's Proposed Budget, California community colleges would face \$400 million in state general fund cuts; and

WHEREAS, without an extension of temporary tax increases, California community colleges could face \$900 million in state general fund cuts; and

WHEREAS, Desert Community College District faces cuts of \$2,724,000 under the Governor's Proposed Budget and \$6,129,000 if an all-cuts budget were to be adopted instead; and

WHEREAS, California's locally elected community college trustees, together with their faculty, staff and students, are best able to decide where budget reductions can be absorbed while minimizing the impact on their communities; and

WHEREAS, "targeted" cuts at specific curriculum that cost colleges the least to offer will -- in addition to injuring students in transfer and career preparation programs -- require districts to reduce enrollment in higher-cost programs such as advanced technology and nursing; and

WHEREAS, California community colleges could mitigate state cuts and maintain essential student instruction and services if their local communities were able to approve parcel taxes to provide funds to replace reduced state General Fund revenues; and

WHEREAS, fee increases charged to community college students should protect the quality of instruction and student services; and

WHEREAS, policy and practice reforms to improve student success and motivate student behavior should be based on sound research implemented in a manner to allow students and institutions to adjust; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Desert Community College District supports a balanced approach to budgeting, including the extension of temporary tax revenues to protect vital state programs along with budgetary cuts to bring California's state budget into balance; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Desert Community College District supports redirecting any amount of student fee revenue increase to reduce the proposed apportionment cut to protect the quality of student instruction and services; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Desert Community College District opposes the proposal to distribute apportionment based on student retention and instead supports an additive, categorical incentive funding program to encourage student success, as proposed in the report A 2020 Vision for Student Success; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Desert Community College District supports the right of California's voters to be given the opportunity to allow local voters to approve parcel taxes with a 55% vote to backfill state budget cuts at community colleges; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Desert Community College District, by passage of this resolution, expresses its full support for the above principles and positions on the Governor's Proposed Budget for the 2011-12 fiscal year.



Secretary, Board of Trustees or
Authorized Agent of the Board