

FACT SHEET

Proposed State Budget Cuts and Humboldt State University 2008-09

The state budget proposed by Gov. Schwarzenegger would reduce funding to the California State University system by \$386.1 million. This includes a direct cut of \$312.9 million and fails to fund \$73.2 million to avoid raising student fees by 10 percent for the 2008-09 academic year.

The proposed budget reduction – which comes on top of \$522 million in cuts between 2002 and 2005 – means 10,000 qualified students will be denied access to a CSU education. Already, in an unusual move, all CSU campuses closed the application period for first time freshmen on March 1 or earlier (at Humboldt State University, high demand led to applications being closed in early January).

As a vital “economic engine” for California, the CSU returns \$4.41 to the state’s economy for every \$1 invested by the state. In addition, the CSU plays a major role in educating the state’s workforce in many areas, including nursing, teaching, agriculture, business, public administration and technology. It graduates 90,000 students each year – 87 percent of education graduates, 64 percent of nurses, 65 percent of business professionals, 82 percent of those involved in public administration, and more than half in agriculture-related fields.

The proposed cuts to the CSU would strip away more than \$1 billion from the state’s economy, even as California leaders grapple with an ongoing budget deficit. They would mean larger class sizes, reduced student support, and fewer course sections, forcing students to delay graduation.

The negative impact on student access would fall disproportionately on students from underrepresented communities, putting at risk recent gains made by the CSU. For 2008, freshman applications for Latinos are up by 21 percent and African Americans by 11 percent.

Although specific budget impacts on individual campuses are not yet known, a 10 percent budget reduction to the CSU system would mean an estimated \$7.3 million loss for Humboldt State (\$3 million below the current budget and \$4.3 million that was expected for costs such as enrollment growth). This would affect every aspect of the campus – from compensation to graduation rates. And that would come as Humboldt State’s freshmen enrollment and number of applications for admission are at record levels.

Humboldt State provides an important contribution to the California economy, graduating more than 1,500 students each year including as many as 200 teachers and 50 nurses. Humboldt State’s nationally known natural resource and science programs educate professionals who are protecting and restoring our environment.

Locally, Humboldt State generates a total impact of \$301 million to the regional economy. This impact sustains more than 8,000 jobs in the region, and generates more than \$14 million per year in tax revenue.

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY