

Subject: Saving CSU's Budget - Please Write Our Lawmakers

February 9, 2008

Campus Community,

We seek your support.

As members of Humboldt State University we are committed to providing the citizenry with access to high-quality, affordable education.

That noble mission is in jeopardy.

The proposed \$312.9 million cut to the California State University budget for the 2008/09 fiscal year, a cut that comes just three years after the CSU budget was reduced by over \$500 million, has profound implications for the CSU and Humboldt State's ability to continue to provide the educated workforce that fuels the economy of California.

Over the past several years, Humboldt has struggled with declining enrollments, increasing costs, and severe budget reductions. This year we were successful in attracting a record-number of new students for 2008/09, only to learn that we are unlikely to receive the funding necessary to educate these students. Previous and very difficult budget reduction strategies were palatable only because we believed that we were poised for growth, and with growth, additional funding. This budget crisis facing California has dashed our optimism, but not our resolve to tell our story.

The California State University is a national leader in providing accessible, affordable, high-quality education for students. The CSU ensures California's future prosperity by supplying the teachers, nurses, researchers, and skilled employees needed in knowledge-based industries. For every \$1 the state invests in the CSU, the CSU returns \$4.41 - a four-fold return on investment.

Humboldt State University's annual impact on the North Coast region is enormous. Our annual spending contributes a total of \$301 million to the regional economy. This, in turn, sustains more than 8,000 jobs in the region and generates more than \$14 million per year in tax revenue. Even greater - more than \$575 million of the earnings by alumni from Humboldt State University are attributable to their CSU degrees. We improve California's economy with research, education, and an entrepreneurial spirit. We improve life in the North Coast region through community service, arts, culture, and sports. We are a University for all Californians.

Simply put, Humboldt State University can not absorb the proposed budget reductions without reducing our myriad contributions to the common good. Such reductions will have a direct and immediate negative effect on the educational opportunities that we provide our students as well as the economy of the North Coast region. We ask you to join us in our commitment and resolve to do all that we can to

preserve access to affordable, high-quality education at Humboldt State University and throughout the CSU. We ask you to join us in telling our story.

The names and addresses of state legislators are noted at the bottom of this e-mail message. These are the decision makers, the individuals whom we elect to make difficult budget choices. And there are choices still to be made. We encourage you to write letters, to tell our story, to help us continue to be the leader in providing access to affordable, high-quality education for California.

Thank you.

Robin Meiggs,
President, Humboldt Chapter
California Faculty Association

Mark Larson
Chair, Academic Senate

Rollin Richmond
President

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Fabien Nunez
Speaker of the Assembly
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0000

Assembly Member Michael Villines
Minority Floor Leader of the Assembly
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3104
Sacramento, CA 94249-0029

Senator Don Perata
President pro Tempore
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Dick Ackerman
Minority Leader of the Senate
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 305
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblywoman Patty Berg
California State Assembly
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0001

Senator Patricia Wiggins
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4081
Sacramento, CA 94248-0001