

All Staff Email Sent November 18, 2008

Colleagues,

Two weeks after the election, I am still thrilled that our bond measure passed. What a team effort! My deep gratitude to everyone who gave of their time to help inform the public about the importance of the bond to the future of the college. There were five community colleges that had measures on the ballot- Clatsop, Portland and Lane passed; Klamath and Central Oregon failed. Given the volatility in the economy it feels that our chance to celebrate may be short lived, but we shouldn't forget that passage of the bond will have long term, positive impacts on the college. It will be very exciting to move forward with much needed improvements to the learning environment. Again, thank you.

I wish the same excitement could be shared regarding the state budget. I don't have to tell you about the meltdown in the global and national economies. While Oregon has been relatively sheltered until now, we are seeing the effects in the local and state economy. The August state revenue forecast suggested that the state budget was \$500 million short of continuing current service levels in the next biennium. Tomorrow there will be a new revenue forecast and the predictions are that it will be dire. In the meantime the Governor's Office has called a special meeting of all state agency heads for tomorrow and has asked for proposals for 5% reductions in the current year and 20% cuts in the next biennium. This does not mean that every agency will actually have this level of cuts. In fact, I think that education may be protected but I do not know to what extent it will be protected. We are monitoring this very closely and should know more in the next several days. As soon as I have more information I will share it with you.

The governor's budget will be released on December 1 and we are building projections for next year to share with the board at the December meeting. I will hold an all staff meeting the week of December 1 to let you know where we stand.

Finally, here is a link to Governor Kulongoski's remarks to the Oregon School Boards Association last week. It is a good overview of how he sees what we are facing.

http://governor.oregon.gov/Gov/speech/2008_1114_schoolboard.shtml

Thanks.

Mary.