

## All Staff Email Sent December 1, 2008

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Colleagues,

As indicated in an earlier e-mail, the Governor published his budget today. As expected, due to the difficult economic times, this is not a good budget for community colleges. The support fund for all 17 colleges has been **reduced** from the current level of \$500 million to \$485 million, a decrease of 3% from the 2007 appropriation.

What was unexpected was the fact that both the Oregon University System and K-12 received increases over their current allocation, while community colleges received a decrease. This is partially due to a technical problem for community colleges with what is called the "essential budget level." (EBL) More on the EBL at a later time.

It is very disappointing that the governor in his budget release talked about "holding *all* of education – not just K through 12 – harmless in the first year, and we will find additional funding – if necessary – in the second year. So the bottom line for the entire education enterprise – preschool through the opportunity grant program – over the next two years is: No cuts."

(From the governor's speech which can be seen at [http://governor.oregon.gov/Gov/speech/2008\\_1201\\_budget.shtml](http://governor.oregon.gov/Gov/speech/2008_1201_budget.shtml))

The fact that the community college allocation is \$15 million less than the current amount is an absolute mismatch of rhetoric and reality. At the time when more Oregonians are out of work and most need training and education to get our economy moving again, community colleges will have to make deep cuts and limit access for Oregonians most in need.

We have been preparing budget projections for 2009-10 and will update them with the governor's budget. There will be an **all staff meeting on Wednesday, December 3, at 2:30 in Forum 308, 309** when we will go through the projections and what the Governor's budget means for Lane. I hope you will come so that you can hear for yourself the impacts of this budget.

While the governor's budget is a starting place it is clear that we have a lot of work ahead of us in the legislative session.

Thanks. Mary.