

## **NEWS COVERAGE** (updated 1/13 9:30 am)

Release of report "California at the Edge of a Cliff"

### **PRINT**

- Sacramento Bee (Editorial)
- Long Beach Press-Telegram
- Contra Costa Times
- La Opinion (Spanish), Los Angeles
- World Journal (Chinese), Los Angeles
- Sing Tao Daily (Chinese), Los Angeles
- People's Daily (Chinese), China
- Chronicle of Higher Education, National

### **RADIO**

- KFWB News Radio, Los Angeles
- KPCC - NPR, Pasadena
- KFI News Radio, Los Angeles
- KBHK News Radio, Sacramento (evening news)
- KKTO/KXJZ - NPR, Sacramento (Panel discussion)
- KQED – NPR (upcoming special)

### **TV**

- KTTV Fox, Los Angeles
- Sky Link (Chinese), Los Angeles
- KNBC, Los Angeles
- KOVR – CBS, Sacramento
- KPIX – CBS, San Francisco
- KIEM, Eureka (interview Robin Meiggs)

### **BLOGS/SPECIAL**

- California Progress Report
- Rough & Tumble
- California Morning Report

### **LISTENING ON THE CALL**

- Secretary of Education

### 89.3 KPCC

## Cal State union releases report on negative budget-cut consequences

Patricia Nazario  
January 07, 2009

 Listen

***A new report indicates that California has fallen from the top to the bottom quarter of states in the percentage of high school graduates who proceed to college. KPCC's Patricia Nazario has more on the study.***

*Patricia Nazario:* The union that represents instructors at Cal State University campuses hired Tom Mortenson of the education think tank the Pell Institute to evaluate California's public higher ed infrastructure.

His research suggests that years of budget cuts have placed students from low-income families – a key constituency of the public universities – at a disadvantage.

*Tom Mortenson:* Your low-income population is your future. Over half of your school children qualify for free or reduced-price school lunches.

*Nazario:* Mortenson also evaluated California's changing economy. He says the state's agricultural and manufacturing jobs are drying up.

*Mortenson:* What's growing is service industries that require high levels of education.

*Nazario:* Those industries, he says, include health care, education, and business services.

*Mortenson:* Qualifying for good jobs in those industries requires an awful lot of education beyond high school. You really do need a college degree.

*Nazario:* Kids from working families may have a harder time earning those degrees. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is proposing million-dollar cuts in education to help balance the state's \$40 billion budget gap.

The title of Tom Mortenson's report reflects what faculty at the 23 Cal State campuses want to say to the governor. It's called "California at the Edge of a Cliff: The Failure to Invest in Public Higher Education is Crushing the Economy and Crippling Our Kids' Future."

## La Opinión

# Cutting the school year

2009-01-09

The state's K-12 education system already leaves much to be desired in terms of teaching and learning. Governor Schwarzenegger's proposal to reduce the school year by five days to save money extends the fiscal crisis into the classroom and projects it into California's future.

Our state already has the dubious honor of ranking among the lowest in investment per student. Comparisons with the rest of the country show California consistently below the national average and the gap widens when the differential cost of living is considered.

This disconcerting educational panorama, far from correcting itself, will worsen with the proposal to cut the year from 180 to 175 days. Most industrialized countries have school years of at least 200 days. If California cuts its schedule as the governor suggests, it will be among eight states in the country, including Kentucky and North Dakota, with the fewest school days.

This will take us from bad to worse. According to the California State Faculty Association, our state ranks 49th in the nation in terms of the number of adults with at least a high school diploma, 46th for the number of 19-year-olds enrolled in college and 31st for college enrollment among students in low-income families.

Low-income students will be those most impacted by the reduction of the school year since they often attend districts whose schools have no discretionary funds to help ease the crisis. This situation also creates problems for parents, especially among the poor, who must secure with their limited resources alternatives to care for their children on days when classes are canceled.

The governor's proposal will cut the deficit, estimated at nearly \$40 billion for the next 18 months, by \$1.1 billion, but the cost of this action immeasurable. Our young people need more time in the classroom to become competitive on the job market. California's future should not be mortgaged in this way.

Contra Cost Times

## **New study shows California's deteriorating educational status**

Daily News Wire Services  
01/07/2009 02:41:04 PM PST

California ranks next to last in states where the adult population has at least a high school education, according to a report released today by the California Faculty Association at Cal State Los Angeles.

Ranking 49th out of 50 states is an indication of the state's deteriorating educational status in recent decades, according to "California at the Edge of a Cliff," by Thomas G. Mortenson.

Mortenson is an independent analyst living in Iowa and a senior scholar at The Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education in Washington, D.C.

As of 2007, California ranked 14th in the nation in terms of college educated members of the workforce over 25 years of age, a drop from eighth place in 1981, according to the report.

"Other states have made greater gains in building a college educated workforce and moved past California," Mortenson stated. "California is slipping toward educational and economic mediocrity among states on this critical measure of state competitiveness, prosperity and success ... "

State tax fund investment in higher education has declined by 40 percent since 1980, according to the report.

California Faculty Association members used the report's findings to blast Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed funding cuts to education.

"It is hypocritical for the governor to utter the words 'we need job creation' out of one side of his mouth while he cuts higher education funding from the other side of his mouth because you can't create jobs when you are cutting the very institution that educates people to do those jobs," said Lillian Taiz, CFA's president.

Grappling with a \$14.8 billion budget deficit, Schwarzenegger has proposed a combination of sales tax increases, borrowing and major budget cuts, including billions of dollars cut from the state's education budget.

## State's college stature on wane

By Connie Llanos, Staff Writer

01/07/2009

Once regarded as a national leader in higher education, California is quickly falling in the ranks as fewer young people graduate high school and enroll in college, according to a report released Wednesday by the California Faculty Association.

In its investment in public higher education and college degree attainment, the state ranks near the bottom among all 50 states.

California ranked 49th in the country for its number of adults with at least a high school diploma, 46th for the number of 19-year-olds enrolled in college and 31st for college enrollment among students in low-income families.

And over the last three decades, the state's investment in public higher education has fallen 40 percent - dropping from 11th in the nation to 22nd despite having the country's largest public higher education system.

"It's a collapse, folks," said Tom Mortensen, author of the report "California at the Edge of a Cliff: The Failure to Invest in Public Higher Education is Crushing the Economy and Crippling our Kids Futures."

"This is a staggering commentary on this state's commitment to higher education."

Lillian Taiz, president of the California State Faculty Association who commissioned the report, said the statistics should be a message to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

"For the past several years we have been trying to draw attention to the fact that these cuts have real serious consequences," Taiz said. "It is utterly hypocritical for the governor to call for job creation out of one side of his mouth while he cuts higher education funding from the other side."

The 2008-2009 state budget cut funding for the CSU system twice - a mid-year cut of \$66.3million and a \$31.3 million one-time cut - and cut the UC system's funding by \$48 million. The CSU system also cut enrollment for the 2009-2010 year, and the UC system will be discussing cutting enrollment at a meeting later this month.

"The governor has always been a large proponent of higher education, but unfortunately in this national economic downturn the state faces a \$41.6 billion budget gap, and like families and companies across the state we must tighten our belts," said Camille Anderson, a spokeswoman for the governor.

Anderson also said that the governor has proposed a \$644million increase to higher education funding over last year.

The Long Beach Unified School District agrees "with the study's premise that California is sliding backward compared with other states when it comes to investing in education," said spokesman Chris Eftychiou. "But Long Beach has bucked the trend in terms of student performance."

According to Eftychiou, the number of LBUSD students enrolling in four-year colleges increased 37 percent between 2004 and 2007. About two-thirds of graduates enroll in college directly after high school, he added.

David Dowell, vice provost at Cal State Long Beach, said that the state needs to invest more in education, at both the K-12 and college level. Adequate funding is especially important for school districts who are teaching a challenging population of kids in poverty.

"A lot of the challenge for California is we have such an unequal income distribution and such a large number of kids in poverty," he said.

California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell said that the state should make education a top priority.

"While this report focuses on higher education, I agree with the author's conclusion that our state's economy is at risk unless we invest more in closing the achievement gap and preparing all students to succeed in college and their careers," O'Connell said in a statement.  
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Staff Writer Kevin Butler contributed to this report.

## California Progress Report

# California's Failure to Invest in Higher Education Gives the State Little Hope for Economic Prosperity in the 21st Century Global Economy

by Lillian Taiz  
President, California Faculty Association

As California's leaders continue to wrestle with how to tackle the ever growing budget deficit, cuts to education and in particular public higher education, continue to be mentioned as a solution to economic tumult.

Such cuts would be a blow to a State that already has fallen from "trend-setter" in terms of education and economic prosperity for the country to "bottom of the pack."

In today's global economy, prosperity is no longer driven by physical strength, but by the brains of college educated workers and the industries that employ them. We've left the Industrial Age for the High Tech Age driven by research and development and creativity. In short, success in the 21st Century Economy will depend on the higher educational attainment of the workforce.

A new report released today by the California Faculty Association reveals that California has slipped into "educational and economic mediocrity," giving our kids no chance in a global economy and putting our State's future economic prosperity in danger.

California now Ranks 49th out of 50 states in the number of its adult population with at least a high school diploma -- and the State has fallen from 5th to 47th in the number of its high school graduates that go on to college

Look no further than the State's massive reduction in higher education funding for the reason for the decline. Over the years, California has substantially reduced its investment in higher education and today ranks 21st among states, down from 11th in 1980 (a 40% drop in funding).

The report, "California at the Edge of a Cliff: The Failure to Invest in Public Higher Education is Crushing the Economy and Crippling Our Kids Future," raises even more questions about Governor Schwarzenegger's plans to further slash public higher education funding from the budget, which will prevent thousands of students from admission to college and destroy their American Dream.

This isn't news to those of us who spend our time in the classroom and on campus and have to face the harsh realities of cuts first hand. We know full well what millions of dollars in budget cuts mean for the future of California.

Fewer kids are going to be admitted to schools and fewer kids are going to be qualified for the jobs that today's economy has to offer. It is hypocritical for the Governor to utter the words 'we need job creation' out of one side of his mouth while he cuts higher education funding from the other side of his mouth because you can't create jobs when you are cutting the very institution that educates people to do those jobs.



We are facing the worst economic downturn since the great depression. At the same time precious taxpayer dollars are being wasted to preserve bankers' opulent lifestyles while some leaders claim they can't find the resources that we all know leads to more jobs and a stronger economy. It is time for leadership in Sacramento and Washington to acknowledge that education is not the problem here, but that it is the solution for digging ourselves out of this crisis. We need a real commitment to education from our elected officials.

To view a full copy of the report, go to <http://www.calfac.org/CalAtTheEdge.html>

Lillian Taiz is a professor of history at California State University, Los Angeles and President of the California Faculty Association.

The World Journal

教協報告：加州教育 全美吊車尾

記者蔡明容

舊金山7日報導

加州教職員協會 ( California Faculty

Association ) 7日召開電話記者會發表一項新報告，指出加州政府忽略支持學生尋求高等教育，已經嚴重打擊加州在世界經濟中的競爭力。該協會主席泰絲 ( Lillian Taiz ) 表示，現在是執政者了解其中因果及利害關係，並及時做出修正的時候了。

加州教職員協會報告—

「站在懸崖邊的加州：忽略資助公立高等教育將擊碎加州經濟並殘害孩子的未來」 ( California at the Edge of a Cliff : The Failure to Invest in Public Higher Education is Crushing the Economy and Crippling Our Kids Future ) ，指加州不但已失去教育及經濟領導優勢，甚至教育及經濟排名在全美吊車尾，同時質疑州長計畫削減更多教育預算。

報告提到，過去加州對高等教育的投資與重視在全美名列前茅，但近年在教育及經濟排名上不斷下滑。現在加州投資在高等教育的金額，全美排名第21名，比起1980年的第11名大幅下降了10位。在1983年時，加州曾擁有全美最多的高中畢業生，但2006年至今則大幅下降至第49名，且高中畢業生進入大學或社區學院就讀的人數，也從過去的第5名下降到第47名。

此外加州對高等教育的資助，與1980年相比少了40%，有鑑於此，加州在教育與經濟上表現不進反退一點也不令人奇怪。

泰絲表示，所有教職員都清楚了解，大量預算被刪減後，代表的是越來越少的學生能夠進入高等學校，也等於越來越少人能夠符合現在的就業要求。她直指，當州長說出「我們需要創造更多就業機會時」，卻剝奪學生受教育的權利，這種行為非常偽善，因為他正在刪減創造工作機會的場所與人力。

泰絲表示，目前全美正面臨大蕭條以來最壞的景氣，但與此同時，納稅人珍貴的血汗錢，卻遭到浪費、被用於保障銀行家或金融鉅子奢侈的生活。她強調，沙加緬度與華府的執政者，應了解教育不是此次金融危機的問題，而是拯救不景氣的重要關鍵。她希望所有民選官員都能履行持續投資教育的承諾。

該報告全文可在<http://www.calfac.org/CalAtTheEdge.html>網站下載。



**The Salinas Californian**

## **Hartnell sees surge in interest**

### **Recession sends more back to the books**

By SUNITA VIJAYAN • The Salinas Californian • January 9, 2009

Salinas-area residents are in step with a national trend of returning to school in the midst of job losses and the economic recession, education officials said this week.

"Because of the economic downturn, we're seeing more people returning to school," said Greg Peterson, Hartnell College associate vice president for student affairs and athletics, on Tuesday. "Our numbers are up considerably."

Hartnell kicks off its fourth registration rally today at its main campus in Salinas. A second rally is slated for Saturday at the school's King City Education Center.

The registration rallies have been ongoing events for the past two years to give new students a convenient venue, a one-stop shopping for taking care of all their enrollment needs - from registering for classes to purchasing parking permits.

Statewide, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office said it has seen an increase of more than 100,000 students on its 100 campuses from fall 2007 to fall 2008.

There are now 2.7 million students enrolled at community colleges statewide compared with 1.12 million in Jan. 2007.

"It's kind of a historical precedent," said Ron Owens, spokesman for the chancellor's office. "When the state faces hard economic times, people go back to college because it's more affordable and a lot go back to community colleges to improve their skill set."

Technical training courses and nursing education are among the more popular career programs on campuses, Owens said.

At Hartnell, the college has seen a marked increase in workplace-related courses such as improving basic skills, language, computing, business, communications and mathematics, said Esteban Soriano, associate vice president of career and economic development.

"People are recognizing that they need to be in better positions and be better adapted to the market forces," Soriano said.

California ranks 49<sup>th</sup> out of 50 states in the number of adults who hold at least a high school diploma, according to a report by the California Faculty Association.

Another factor in the massive return to school may stem from the four-year universities that because of budget cuts are turning away students.

Joan Weiner, of California State University Monterey Bay, said though there are no plans to lower the amount of applications accepted, the school will be cap enrollment at 4,300 students.

Weiner said CSUMB saw a 6.8 percent increase in enrollment through December for the fall semester compared to the previous year.

Peterson said Hartnell's enrollment has grown significantly in the past two years, and attributed the declining economy and shrinking job market as main factors.

Another telling sign to the phenomenon of returning students, he said, can be seen in the number of courses registered.

While the number of students registered in fall 2008 was the same as the previous year, about 9,400, the number of registered courses increased by 2,130 to 22,600.

This might indicate that students are taking more classes to graduate sooner or that they have more time on their hands for school.

So far, for the spring semester, 6,400 students have enrolled at Hartnell for 20,000 units, Peterson said. At this time last year, 5,300 students had registered for 15,500 units, he said.

Following the registration rallies today and Saturday, Hartnell expects an 8 percent increase in enrollment for the spring semester, Peterson said.

Statewide, a community college education remains much more affordable than attending four-year schools. Effective in January 2007, per-unit fees were reduced by 23 percent from \$26 to \$20 after the Legislature acted as a result of an enrollment decline of 40,000 students between 2002 and 2004.

Meanwhile, the community colleges remain concerned about the state cuts proposed for education. Owens said the state Legislative Analyst's Office recommended raising per-unit fees back to \$26. That didn't happen on Jan. 1, but the office also wants to increase the fees to \$30 on July 1.

"Our position is that any increase of enrollment fees or tuition is going to affect those people who have historically been locked out of going on to higher education," he said. "We're past Jan. 1, so their recommendation wasn't heeded ... (but) we don't know what's going to happen down the road."

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