

For Immediate Release
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MEDIA ADVISORY

STANDING-ROOM-ONLY CROWDS CONTINUE TO JAM MEETINGS ON GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS TO CAL. STATE UNIVERSITY

**The "Alliance for the CSU" attracts thousands of sign ups
to oppose cuts and to support California's public university system
under the banner "The CSU is the Solution"**

SACRAMENTO—All Campus Budget Fight Back Meetings roll to more California State University campuses this week as the formation of a new alliance to support the embattled public university system gains strength and supporters.

Events occur in three regions of the state, on Wednesday April 2 at Cal State Los Angeles and San Jose State both at noon, and Thursday April 3 at CSU Bakersfield at 10:30 am.

Each region and campus has a stake in the 23-campus CSU system.

More than half the students at the Los Angeles campus are Latino/a, the fastest growing demographic group in the state. L.A. Community supporters will join faculty, staff, students and administrators to speak to the critical role Cal State LA plays in providing opportunity for Latino/a youth to get a college education. Studies by economic think tanks say more college degrees must get into the hands of Latino/a youth to ensure the future of California's educated workforce.

CSU Bakersfield and San Jose State prepare the bulk of K-12 teachers and four-year degree nurses in their regions. San Jose State is a pipeline for high-tech engineers. Industry leaders are concerned California already is not producing enough trained personnel for high tech and cuts to the CSU could result in fewer engineers.

There will be a media availability 30 minutes prior to each campus meeting, and when the meetings start, the media is welcome to stay and cover the events.

Thousands gathered at an outdoor rally at CSU Long Beach last week to learn the depth of the impact of cuts on the campus and the regional economy. Crowds overflowed the Titan Student Union ballroom at CSU Fullerton and the meeting halls at CSU Channel Islands, the newest CSU campus, and Humboldt State at the Oregon border.

Nearly all Cal State University campuses have held similar events and initiated the "Alliance for the CSU," collected sign ups, and prepared to take their message into

surrounding communities and to the State Capitol. The last of the kick off meetings will take place April 8 at Cal Poly Pomona and CSU Chico.

The Governor proposes to cut \$386 million from the CSU budget for the 2008/09 academic year at a time when the economy is lagging, businesses are desperate for skilled workers, the State's infrastructure needs massive improvements, and disadvantaged and middle-class students are finding it harder and harder to afford a college education.

Faculty, students, staff, and the administration know that **the CSU is the solution to our State's economic challenges, not the problem.** The CSU educates the State's skilled workforce, graduates the majority of minority students in California, and contributes over \$7 billion to the State's economy.

Cuts to the CSU would force the system to turn away at least 10,000 qualified students, hike student fees yet again, eliminate classes, lay off teachers and increase class sizes. In other words, **cuts to the CSU will further damage the economy.**

Below, please find an updated schedule of events.

UPDATED SCHEDULE OF EVENTS – as of March 31, 2008

--Wed, April 2, Cal State Los Angeles, Budget Fight Back Meeting, 12-2 pm, Golden Eagle Ballroom

--Wed, April 2, San Jose State, Budget Fight Back Meeting, 12-1 pm, Student Union Ballroom

--April 3, CSU Bakersfield, Budget Fight Back Meeting, 10:30-11:30 am, Icardo Center (gym)

--April 8, Cal Poly Pomona, Budget Fight Back Meeting, 12-1 pm, Student Speech Area ("The Pancake" in mid campus)

--April 8, CSU Chico, Budget Fight Back Meeting, 10:30 am, Location to be announced.

All-Campus Budget Fight Back Meetings have already been held at CSU Dominguez Hills, CSU San Marcos, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Fresno State, CSU San Bernardino, CSU East Bay, CSU Monterey Bay, CSU Northridge, San Francisco State, Sacramento State, Cal. Maritime Academy, CSU Stanislaus, Sonoma State, San Diego State, Humboldt State, CSU Long Beach, CSU Fullerton and CSU Channel Islands.

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