

For Immediate Release
April 30, 2008

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**THOUSANDS OF FAXES AND CALLS POURING INTO
GOVERNOR'S OFFICES FROM CAL STATE CAMPUSES SAYING:
"Can You Hear Us Now? Don't cut the CSU!"**

The campaign to say "Governor: Can You Hear Us Now?" at the California State University is gaining steam up and down that state as thousands of calls and faxes pour in to the governor's offices.

The impact of what one media outlet has dubbed "Electronic March on the Capitol" has been to cause his Los Angeles and Sacramento offices to turn off the voice mail and fax machines.

The call and fax drive under the umbrella of the newly formed Alliance for the CSU is in anticipation of the governor's "May Revise" of his state budget proposal for 2008/09.

Thousands of California State University students, faculty, employees and supporters are jamming the governor's phones and fax lines with a common message: The California State University is part of the solution to an economic downturn; don't cut it!

The action expands to these CSU campuses:

- **CSU Monterey Bay: Thu, May 1**, Noon, Quad, more info 831-582-3028
- **Sacramento State: Thu, May 1**, 10 am to 4 pm, Two locations: Library Quad and the River Front food court, more info 916-761-0194
- **Cal State Los Angeles: Thu, May 1**, 11 am to 2 pm, Main Walkway, more info 323-343-5310
- **CSU Stanislaus: Mon May 5**, 11 am to 2 pm, Quad, more info 559-260-1679
- **San Jose State: Tue May 6**, 9 am to 6 pm, Front of Student Union, more info 510-206-1263
- **CSU East Bay: Tue May 6**, 10am to 2:30 pm in front Library & 5 to 7 pm in front of Meikeljohn Hall, more info 310-748-1730
- **San Diego State: Wed, May 7**, time & place TBA, more info 858-335-6339
- **CSU Chico: Thu, May 8**, 10am-3pm, Kendall Lawn, more info 916-761-0194
- **CSU Northridge: Thu, May 8**, 10 am to 2 pm, place TBA, for more info call 818-677-5919
- **San Francisco State: Thu, May 8**, , 9 am to 5 pm, First Floor Lobby, Cesar Chavez Student Center, more info 415-338-6232
- **CSU Channel Islands: Thu May 8**, in front of Library, time TBA, more info (805) 437-8872

Note that peak times are 11:30 am to 1 pm on most campuses.

They join CSU San Bernardino, Sonoma State CSU Bakersfield, CSU Dominguez Hills (Carson, CA), Cal Poly Pomona, CSU San Marcos, Fresno State, CSU Fullerton, CSU Long Beach, and Humboldt State where the Alliance has already started faxing and calling.

The media is welcome to visit the Alliance phone banks and talk with the community about why they are concerned about the Governor's budget proposal. Contact Alice Sunshine 510-384-1967 or Lisa Cohen 310-396-2544 for more information.

COMMENTS BY CFA PRESIDENT LILLIAN TAIZ ON THE BUDGET CUTS

“The CSU community know it’s a tragic mistake to cut higher education during an economic downturn. This is a time to invest wisely to pull ourselves out of the crisis and build for the future. Public higher education is exactly the kind of investment that we as a state need to make now,” said California Faculty Association President Lillian Taiz, a main figure in the new Alliance and a history professor at Cal State Los Angeles.

“The Governor’s proposed cut would have a devastating impact on our public state universities and we feel compelled to speak up for the sake not just of our students, and the jobs created in the communities where we have campuses, but for California as a whole.

“Over the last month, we’ve experienced a wave of energy in support of the Alliance for the CSU. This next step of the campaign is to take our message directly to the Governor’s office.

“The CSU is the solution, not the problem. We hope that by communicating with the Governor, he will reconsider his proposal,” Taiz said.

BACKGROUND ON “MAY REVISE” AND WHAT THE CUTS MEAN TO THE CSU

During the week of May 12, the Governor will release a revised budget proposal for the 2008/09 state budget, which includes funding for the California State University. The Alliance for the CSU hopes he will reconsider his proposed cuts of \$386 million to the CSU budget.

Cuts to the CSU would cause 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. Cuts to the number of college-educated people California produces will further damage the economy.

The CSU educates the State’s skilled workforce, graduates more than half of all minority students who get four-year degrees in California, and contributes over \$7 billion to the State’s economy. CSU campuses provide jobs and economic activity in every community where they are located at a rate of \$4.41 for every dollar spent on the CSU.

An economic impact study provided to the CSU Chancellor’s Office shows that the long-term impact of the state universities, when considering higher incomes and tax base created by CSU alumni, is \$17 for every dollar the state spends. Learn more about this impact, statewide and by campus at <http://www.calstate.edu/impact/>.

This impact means funding the CSU is even more critical to California 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.

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