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## CFA HEADLINES

**April 16, 2013 · Weekly news digest from CFA**

- On Tax Day, CFHE urges states to fund public higher ed
- Nearly 100k people rally for commonsense immigration reform
- CA Dems pass resolution to support schools & dispel the “reform” agenda
- Tell Senator Steinberg SB 520 creates more problems than it solves
- Long Beach Hyatt hotel workers to unionize
- Links of the week

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### · **On Tax Day, CFHE urges states to fund public higher ed**

In celebration of Tax Day on Monday, the Campaign for the Future of Higher Education (CFHE) is urging state and federal lawmakers to put our tax dollars to the best possible use: funding public higher education!

Between 1980 and 2013, state fiscal investment in higher education (as a percentage of personal income) dropped by 46.7%.

[View the CFHE Tax Day informational flyer.](#)

### · **Nearly 100k people rally for commonsense immigration reform**

Nearly 100,000 people took to the grounds of the U.S. Capitol last Wednesday (April 10) to send a clear message to Congress: “The Time is Now” for comprehensive immigration reform.

The crowd remained charged through a succession of speakers who included faith leaders, mixed-status families, members of Congress, labor leaders, community activists, celebrity singers and others.



Rep. John Lewis, a civil rights icon who as a student marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, unexpectedly showed up during the early part of the rally. Addressing the crowd, he compared today's struggle for justice for immigrants to the larger struggle for social and economic justice for all people.

[CFA passed a resolution earlier this year supporting comprehensive immigration reform.](#)

While thousands rallied at the Capitol Building in Washington DC, thousands more were taking action in their own communities across the country including many events right here in California:

- In Los Angeles over 700 members of local labor community and their allies hosted a march and rally to Senator Diane Feinstein's office with the message that the time is now to act on reform, while encouraging the Senator to step out as a leader on the issue. Coverage can be found [here](#) and [here](#).
- In Bakersfield and San Bernardino, workers held press conferences and then hit the streets to conduct a voter registration drive. Learn more [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).
- In Oakland, the local labor community hosted an event calling for reform with a pathway to citizenship.
- In Berkeley, 200 people from labor and the community held a march and candlelight vigil for comprehensive immigration reform that included the "Bring Rodrigo Home" Kids for Kids campaign of 4th grade students from Jefferson School BUSD. [View Rodrigo's story and to sign his petition.](#)
- In San Diego, local SEIU affiliates including delivered over 500 postcards to Senator Feinstein's office in support of immigration reform.
- In San Jose, an interfaith prayer breakfast was held followed by a noontime rally with local youth calling for action to fix the broken immigration system. [See photos here.](#)
- In San Francisco, unions and allies marched held a rally with Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi at the Federal Building and calling on Senator Feinstein to support comprehensive immigration reform. Read more [here](#).

## **- CA Dems pass resolution to support schools & dispel the “reform” agenda**

Members of the California Democratic Party took a firm stand against the so-called “education reformers” during the final day of the state party's convention in Sacramento last weekend.

The party approved a resolution – co-sponsored by the California Teachers Association, the California Federation of Teachers and CFA – that voices opposition to education advocacy groups such as Students First and Democrats for Education Reform, who do more to hurt public education than help it.

[View the resolution.](#)

The resolution states these groups "support candidates and local programs that would dismantle a free public education for every student in California and replace it with company run charter schools, non-credentialed teachers and unproven untested so-called 'reforms.'"

## · **Tell Senator Steinberg SB 520 creates more problems than it solves**

Join the more than 600 CSU faculty members who have already emailed State Senate Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento) with concerns regarding [Senate Bill 520](#).

Steinberg believes SB 520 would help students who cannot get the classes they need to move toward graduation—so-called 'bottleneck courses'— **by handing off up to 50 of these sections to private online education vendors.**

CFA believes this bill will lower academic standards (particularly in key skills such as writing, math, and basic analysis), amplify the digital divide along socio-economic lines, and diminish the ability for underrepresented minorities to excel in higher education. In other words, SB 520 would worsen precisely the situation it claims to resolve.

Take action today by sending a message to the Pro Tem to let him know [that his bill creates more problems for our universities than it solves.](#)

## · **Long Beach Hyatt hotel workers to unionize**

A half-dozen years of worker protests and calls to boycott Long Beach's two Hyatt hotels came to an end last week with a joint news conference announcing that workers at the hotels have elected to unionize with Unite Here Local 11.



Collective bargaining discussions between workers and the union will now begin.

Hyatt employees voted last month for unionization, and an independent election judge informed employees last week that a majority of Hyatt associates who were eligible to vote chose to have UNITE HERE represent them.

CFA has long stood with these hotel workers. Local faculty helped picket the two hotels on multiple occasions and the union has made it a point to honor their boycott.

Long Beach faculty member Gary Hytrek, in particular, has been a tireless advocate of this cause. He spoke at CSU Board of Trustees meetings several times urging the Chancellor, Trustees and CSU community to join the boycott of Long Beach Hilton and Hyatt.

"The Hyatt is open for business," said Hytrek, a sociology professor and member of the Long Beach Coalition for Good Jobs and Healthy Community, referencing labor's former calls for a

boycott against the hotels. "We commend the Hyatt for acting as a true community partner and prioritizing union jobs that raise the quality of life for Long Beach residents."

## · Links of the week

### **San Jose State will expand online courses this summer**

San Jose State University's experiment in offering low-cost, entry-level online classes for credit will expand this summer with two new courses and increased enrollment, officials announced Monday. – [Los Angeles Times](#)

### **Opinion: Online learning's tough? Try online teaching!**

Online learning's got nothing on online teaching – [LA Daily News](#)

### **Former Education Secretary Seeks to Simplify States' Distance-Education Rules**

A group of higher-education leaders, accreditors, and regulators led by a former U.S. education secretary is seeking to streamline distance-education and state-authorization regulations to make it easier and more affordable for colleges to enroll students across the country. – [Chronicle of Higher Ed](#)

### **Editorial: No teaching, just tests: A new California college?**

Legislation to create a fourth college system with no classes has more potential to harm than to help restore the state's educational luster. – [LA Times](#)

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