

### **President Obama focus on community colleges –**

President Obama has called on community colleges to “give our workers the skills and training they need to compete”. California Community College’s are grateful the President has recognized the vital role community colleges perform. During this national fiscal crisis, the community colleges are the key to the nation’s economic recovery.

President Obama has called upon the colleges to “serve as 21<sup>st</sup> century job training centers”. Nationwide the community colleges are the nation’s largest workforce training provider. California community colleges are the most efficient and effective means of delivering high quality education and job training in times of dwindling resources. Every \$1 invested in California community colleges and students generates a \$3 return to the state.

### **CA in comparison to the rest of the country-**

In California over 2.7 million students receive education and training at community colleges. California students represent roughly 22 percent of the nation’s total community college attendance.

### **Unprecedented Enrollment Growth**

Nationwide community colleges face unprecedented enrollment demand due to the national fiscal crisis. In California, the 11.5 percent unemployment rate and restricted admission policies & higher tuition at UC and CSU have resulted in thousands of students coming to the community colleges. Classrooms are full, waiting lists are long, and many students cannot access the courses needed to progress.

### **American Graduation Initiative – President Obama’s Community College Plan**

The Obama Administration plan calls for \$12 billion to be spent on the nation’s community colleges directed at improving programs and facilities over a period of ten years. The plan calls for \$9 billion for grants to boost graduation rates & workforce training, \$2.5 billion for facilities, and \$500 million to develop online learning resources. Given the roughly 22 percent of nationwide students served by California it is estimated roughly \$2 billion (\$200 million a year) for grants, roughly \$550 million (\$55 million a year) for facilities, and roughly \$110 million (\$11 million a year) for online learning would be available to California over a 10 year period.

### **CA reduced State investment**

At the same time President Obama proposes a historic federal infusion of resources for community colleges, California faces an unprecedented \$26 billion dollar budget shortfall and proposes to reduce community college funding over two years by roughly \$630 million dollars. These base funding cuts will shut out roughly 250,000 students at a time of unprecedented enrollment growth.