

March 20, 2009

The revenue forecast that was announced yesterday deepens our concern about budget cuts to our state's two-year colleges and to other state agencies. State revenue continues to decline, and the state's budget deficit is now projected to be at \$9 billion.

As you know, we have been anticipating cuts of at least 10% for the 2009-2011 biennium. The recent revenue forecast makes this level of reduction more likely. It is also becoming apparent that the cuts may not be phased in over the course of the biennium, but instead could take effect on July 1, 2009. We will know more when the Senate and House budgets are published in the next couple of weeks, but we are anticipating they will certainly contain more severe cuts than the 6% reduction called for by the Governor's budget of last December.

There are still many unknown pieces to the puzzle, including the size of a tuition increase, the potential for new tax revenues, the effect of federal and state stimulus dollars on our system, and the number of FTES we would receive from the state.

This week's news also lends urgency to budget processes now under way at colleges across the district and at the District Office. We are committed to using every strategy we have to keep our colleges strong. However, cuts at the level of 10% or more will impact our students and all of us.

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