

# Washington's Community and Technical Colleges: 2011 Legislative Session

- For Washington's community and technical colleges, **overall efficiency** is demonstrated by record enrollments and increased student achievement during a time of historic funding cuts.
- We appreciate the funding included in the Governor's budget to support the **Student Achievement Initiative**. This funding rewards colleges for outcomes that lead to higher completion rates for students.
- Our top funding priority beyond the Governor's budget proposal is restoration of the current year's \$17.5 million **Worker Retraining funding** provided by the 2010 Legislature.
- **Keep tuition as low as possible**. The 10 percent tuition increases in the Governor's budget proposal will be difficult for many students and families. Out-of-pocket expenses and reliance on student loans are both of concern.
- We appreciate and support the Governor's proposal on Financial Aid. It is important to maintain the proportional increase in the **State Need Grant** to preserve access for low-income students and decrease reliance on student loans.
- **Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language** students pay tuition of \$25.00 per class. Continued budget cuts have forced colleges to cut back on low revenue-producing programs, such as adult literacy, **resulting in fewer educational opportunities for low-skilled adults**.
- The CTC system must replace its **25-year-old legacy management systems** with updated information technology to support service and function, achieve cost savings, and provide better services for students through Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP).
- As much as possible, **minimize cuts and provide flexibility** so colleges can maintain access for students.
- Under the Governor's budget proposal:
  - State funding for two-year colleges from 2009 through 2013 would decrease by 23%. When tuition revenues are taken into account, the **net reduction to two-year colleges would be 7% from 2009 through 2013**.
  - State funding for the four-year system from 2009 through 2013 would decrease by 46%. When tuition revenues are taken into account, the **net reduction to the four-year system would be 8% from 2009 through 2013**.
- The Governor proposes to **decrease salaries by 3% and impose a 6% cap on state funding for employer pension contributions**. These proposals create possible equity concerns and represent an additional budget cut on top of the reductions already taken by the colleges.
- **Stick to the prioritized capital list**. The projects are prioritized to address system needs in proportion to the level of available resources and the priority of the list is paramount.