



Office of the Chancellor
Frank Gornick
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[West Hills College Coalinga](#) [West Hills College Lemoore](#) [North District Center, Firebaugh](#) [Naval Air Station, Lemoore](#)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 17, 2009

President
Mark McKean

Re: Budget Update #3

Vice President
Bill Henry

Hello,

Clerk
Nina Oxborrow

I would like to begin my third budget message by thanking all of you who have assisted us in doing more with less. The result of our collective efforts appears to have had a positive effect on our ending balance for this year. According to our plan, this increase along with the prior year increase in the ending balance, we would be able to absorb the reductions in the state budget once it was final. We are on track.

Steve Cantu

Edna L. Ivans

Jeff Levinson

Jack Minnite

Student Trustee
Jaqueline DePue

In addition to our fiscal efforts, we were able to achieve the highest enrollment in the history of the West Hills Community College District by surpassing the 7,000 student mark this spring. Congratulations to everyone!

ADMINISTRATION

Chancellor
Frank Gornick

At our March 9 Board Meeting, no reductions occurred in our full time staff. This was a shared goal of the Faculty Association, CSEA and the administrative team and supported by the Board of Trustees.

President
West Hills College Coalinga
Willard Lewallen

As most of you know, the Governor signed a budget on February 20, 2009. We received the final word on our budget just a few days ago (see the attached sheet). The reductions to our budget this year are far greater than had been forecasted. The total for our district exceeds \$4 million in reductions this year. This is a budget "gimmick" to not fund us this year, but pay us in the next fiscal year. The state will provide us with the \$4 million they owe us after the beginning of the next fiscal year, which begins July 1. We anticipate they will use the same "gimmick" again next fiscal year (2009-2010) and make it up in the following fiscal year (2010-2011).

President
West Hills College Lemoore
Don Warkentin

Vice Chancellor
of Business Services
Ken Stoppenbrink

There are a series of statewide propositions on the ballot for the May 19 election. These propositions will address the shortfall in funding for K-12 and community colleges over a number of years.

Latest Development: Last Friday, March 13, the Legislative Analyst's Office dropped the other shoe, so to speak. They

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announced that the revenues projected for this year would not materialize. They estimate that the "shortfall" for this current year will be \$8 billion. This means another round of budget cuts before the end of the fiscal year in June. We anticipate that the "May Revise" will address the additional reductions we must make to this year's budget. This is on top of the "gimmick" of \$4 million.

We are in the process of working on a plan to create a financing bridge to accommodate the delayed payment from the state. My goal is to implement such a plan by the end of May.

What can you do in these difficult economic times? First, stay positive. Your positive attitude is contagious. Students, other staff, and our community supporters observe your positive behavior; second, be patient. Be prepared for a long recovery. It may take two to three years before our budgets appear to be "normal"; and third, stay focused on our mission: to create access and to provide learning opportunities to all the citizens of our district.

Finally, we are continuing to meet with your representatives from the faculty and the classified staff to navigate a reasonable course for all of us to take. I encourage you to talk with and support your leadership during these uncertain times. Our dialogue has been constructive and representative of everyone in the district, including students.

Again, thank you for your patience and support.

Personal regards,



Frank Gornick
Chancellor

