



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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May 12, 2009

President
Mark McKean

Re: Budget Update #4

Vice President
Bill Henry

Hello everyone,

Clerk
Nina Oxborrow

It is May and it signals the closing of another academic year. It also signals the beginning of a hectic month. The activities that surround the ending of another year, while hectic in the preparation, are always a welcome and reassuring sign about our profession.

Steve Cantu

Edna L. Ivans

Jeff Levinson

This year was special in many ways. We enrolled 7,000 students this spring; became fiscally independent from Fresno County for payroll purposes; passed three bond measures by well over 60% and enrolled our first nursing students. We transferred more students to universities and more students received their certificate or degree in a career field than we ever have in our history.

Jack Minnite

Student Trustee
Jaqueline DePue

These events are not surprising, thanks to the outstanding work from everyone. It is what we have been witnessing for the past decade. It is what we have come to expect from ourselves. In addition, on May 19 an election will be held that will have a significant impact upon how we do business in the future at West Hills and in the state of California. I urge all of you to become acquainted with the issues and vote.

ADMINISTRATION

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Frank Gornick

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West Hills College Coalinga
Willard Lewallen

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West Hills College Lemoore
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Vice Chancellor
of Business Services
Ken Stoppenbrink

The purpose of this fourth budget update is to apprise you of the facts as we know them today. Even with the increase in state sales tax with the approval of this current budget, the income or revenue of the state continues to decline as well as the property taxes. This week we learned that the K-14 systems could see a \$3.6 billion cut this year due to a projected drop in revenues. Because of this, we can anticipate another reduction in our apportionment prior to the end of June for \$1.7 million. Remember, this is on top of the \$2.8 million we have already reduced this year. In addition to these reductions, we experienced \$750,000 in reductions from our revenue in the P1 and P2 notices during the last 60 days.

As I have indicated in prior updates, we have done nothing wrong. Our state is out of balance and we are adjusting to them. It is

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fortunate that we have had a large reserve to assist with the cash flow problems that the state has created for us to manage. Our reserves have dwindled because we have used them along with the reductions you have made to this year's budget to stay true to our mutual goals. There is no question that the task becomes much harder with this last reduction. I want you to know that your group representatives, Mark Millett and Marty Ennes, have been great to work with during this crisis. They understand what we are all facing and want to work with the College Presidents and myself on finding solutions. The Board of Trustees is also keenly aware of our circumstances and is prepared to assist us in ways that sustain our efforts and cooperative spirit.

Between now and the end of the year we will be working with each group through the negotiations process to stay true to our commitment of no layoffs of full time staff. To make that happen we will need everyone's cooperation and best thinking.

What can you do to help? Be prepared to change some of your working behaviors and habits. The little things are important such as turning computers off at the end of the day; turning lights off in rooms when unoccupied; making copies on both sides of the paper; and using the web or email to provide information to students rather than using postal mail or handing out papers in class. These are just some of the small items that end up with a large savings by the end of the year.

In addition, be prepared to work differently. Some of you may come in later in the day to extend our coverage of services or programs. Faculty may have their loads spread over more days and hours, because there will be fewer adjunct faculty next year. Administrators may be back in the classroom or vacancies not replaced and the administrative duties shared among the remaining staff.

Finally, no matter how difficult these budget times may get, do not lose sight of the fact that you are working in a great profession at a great institution. Thank you for your continued support of the West Hills Community College District.

Sincerely,



Frank Gornick
Chancellor