



Office of the Chancellor
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West Hills College Coalinga West Hills College Lemoore North District Center, Firebaugh Naval Air Station, Lemoore

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August 18, 2009

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Re: Budget update #8

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to a new academic year!

The heroic events in our history as a college district speak to your reasonableness and professional nature. It is no wonder that you selected us as "one of the best colleges to work for"! On behalf of the Board of Trustees and myself, thank you for your patience and sacrifice this past year and the current year. It is indeed a pleasure to work with all of you and to represent your efforts to our communities.

Two weeks ago, CSEA approved a contract that provided for 12 furlough days for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Prior to this action, the administrative, management and confidential staff agreed to a 24 day furlough plan; and on the seventh of this month, CTA ratified a contract that included 12 furlough days.

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Vice Chancellor
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Ken Stoppenbrink

The leadership provided by the negotiation teams made it possible for us to get to "yes". This was a bittersweet moment for all of us because no one likes to give up anything; but we do like closure. Thanks again to the teams (CTA: Marty Ennes, Sarah Shepard, Ken Sowden and Staci Mosher; and CSEA: Mark Millett, John Ieronimo, Donna Jimenez and Oscar Villarreal) as well as Ken Stoppenbrink, Willard Lewallen and Don Warkentin.

Because of everyone's collective efforts, we will be in a good position to face the upcoming reductions this current year. As I mentioned during my presentation on Duty Day, the colleges are already adjusting schedules to reduce the number of sections and accommodate more students in the process. These efforts, along with the continual freeze of open positions, will assist us in weathering the storm that awaits. For those of you who may have missed it, my Duty Day presentation is posted on the website at <http://www.westhillscollge.com/district/about/commentaries.asp>.

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"Once you go here, you can go anywhere"™

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By now, you have received an invitation via email to honor our ten early retirees. This celebration will take place on Friday, September 11 at the Tachi Palace Hotel and Casino. It promises to be an enjoyable evening for everyone and a fitting send off to our colleagues. I wish to thank the Foundation, the Colleges, CSEA and CTA for underwriting this event to keep the ticket prices reasonable.

For now, this will be my last update until we hear something from Sacramento. In the meantime, we will continue to meet on a regular basis with CSEA and CTA to handle the day to day operations of the units and the district.

Personal regards,



Frank Gornick
Chancellor

