



County of Santa Cruz

0139

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069
(831) 454-2200 FAX: (831) 454-3262 TDD: (831) 454-2123

JANET K. BEAUTZ
FIRST DISTRICT

ELLEN PIRIE
SECOND DISTRICT

MARDI WORMHOUDT
THIRD DISTRICT

TONY CAMPOS
FOURTH DISTRICT

JEFF ALMQUIST
FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 4/23/02

April 15, 2002

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: CALWORKS FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Dear Members of the Board:

Attached is a letter from Evelyn Hall and Vicki Dyas, Co-Chairs of the Santa Cruz County Women's Commission, alerting the Board to a reduction in the Governor's proposed 2002-03 budget of \$50 million in CalWORKS funding for California Community Colleges. As you are aware, the CalWORKS program implements California's version of the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

The current level of funding allocated to California's Community Colleges to support CalWORKS participants has been a critical component in assisting program participants to move from reliance on public funds to financial independence. The CalWORKS program has been very effective at Cabrillo College and a **loss** of funding of this magnitude will have extremely negative impacts on CalWORKS participants.

Accordingly, I recommend that the Board direct the Chairperson to write to the Governor and to our State representatives urging that State funding for California Community Colleges be retained in the CalWORKS budget for fiscal year 2002-03.

Sincerely,


JANET K. BEAUTZ, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors

JKB:ted
Attachment

cc: Women's Commission
Human Resources Agency Administrator
3039A6



Women's Commission

0140

County of
Santa Cruz

701 Ocean Street, Room 30
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Ph# 831-454-2772 fax 831-454-2433
www.sccwc.net

April 4, 2002

Chair Jan Beautz,
Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors
701 Ocean Street, Rm 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Chair Beautz:

We are writing to request that you urge the Governor to reinstate the **\$50 million dollars** cut **from** the CalWORKs budget to the California Community College for the 2002-2003 fiscal year.

The Santa Cruz County Women's Commission staffs a subcommittee on Welfare Reform implementation, which serves as a collaboration among local service providers to Calworks participants. We observe first-hand what an integral part the support programs at the Community College play to the success of students working toward economic self-sufficiency. We are also proud to say that Cabrillo College has been nationally recognized as a model program for their proven effectiveness.

Numerous studies document the effectiveness of higher education and training in enabling low-income parents to attain stable employment at wages that support a family. Given that the goal of the Welfare to Work program is to foster financial independence instead of reliance on public funds this significant cut in the CalWORKs budget for the California Community Colleges significantly undermines the overarching objective of reducing poverty and eliminating dependency of families on aid.

The typical welfare recipient is a single mother with one child in elementary school and a second younger child. For such a family to be financially independent in Santa Cruz County they would need to hold a full time job earning at the minimum \$21.75 per hour. Most jobs at this salary level require either additional education, job training skills, technical training or certification. Only 4% of workers with Associates Degrees have lived in poverty compared to 17% of workers with less than a high school diploma and 7% of high school graduates.

With the ailing economy and massive layoffs, particularly in the aftermath of September 11th, welfare recipients must be adequately trained and armed with skills that will allow them to compete with others who have both experience and more education.

The community colleges are at the forefront of preparing individuals for jobs and career paths; and have been since their early years of existence. The majority of the workforce is made up of individuals who got their start at a community college. For the past fourteen years, the community colleges across the state have planned, developed, and implemented programs and

services that have moved individuals from welfare rolls to the world of work. Many states have been successful in their deliveries of Welfare To Work and Workforce Education by contracting directly with their community college system to train welfare recipients. Working with various industries has added even more to the successful transitioning for the recipients.

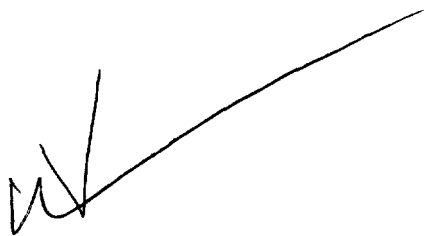
Reinstating the CalWORKs budget for the Community College will ensure CalWORKs students receive not only necessary supportive student services but also job training and educational skills mandatory for a livable wage. Reducing the CalWORKs budget by 81% would eliminate many successful college programs.

Again, we ask that you please express your concern to the Governor and our State legislators regarding the \$50 million dollar cuts from the CalWORKs budget. Thank you for your consideration on this important issue and your continued support to women and girls in Santa Cruz County.

Sincerely,



Evelyn Hall
Co-chair



Vicki Dyas
Co-chair