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Staff News for Santa Rosa Junior College, August 3, 2001

Governor's Budget Eliminates Scheduled Maintenance and Instructional Equipment Funding

California's community colleges received a shock last week when Governor Gray Davis vetoed \$126 million from the allocation to the community colleges before he signed the 2000-01 budget. The vetoes included elimination of state funding for scheduled maintenance projects and for instructional equipment.

While the overall community college budget grew slightly compared to last year, it was about \$126 million less than what had been approved by the Legislature and \$118 million less than Davis himself had proposed for the community colleges in January.

After Davis' cuts, the state budget was almost \$500 million less than the budget package approved by the Legislature. California community colleges' share of the budget cuts totaled more than 20%.

Community college items vetoed by the Governor included:

- Scheduled Maintenance and Special Repairs (\$49 million ongoing funding deleted)
- Instructional Equipment & Library Materials (\$49 million ongoing funding deleted)
- Economic Development (\$5 million vetoed)
- Partnership for Excellence COLA (\$7.6 million vetoed)
- Financial Aid Administration (\$11 million vetoed)
- EOPS Book Grants (\$2 million vetoed)
- Grants for Colleges with Persistently Low Transfer (\$2 million vetoed)
- 34 New Start Capital Outlay Projects (\$14.8 million vetoed)

The budget does include a \$229.4 million increase in ongoing funds for California's community colleges, including a funding level of approximately \$4,727 per FTES for 2001-02, an increase in per-student funding of approximately 2.4%.

Major increases include:

- \$150.4 million for a 3.87% cost-of-living adjustment
- \$113.6 million for 3% enrollment growth, extending access to 30,500 new full-time students
- \$57 million to allow districts to increase compensation for part-time faculty to levels more comparable to full-time faculty, as determined through local collective bargaining
- \$49 million in one-time funds to help districts tackle increasing energy costs and conservation projects
- \$143 million for 76 capital outlay projects in 43 districts

Three SRJC Faculty Honored at Chamber Breakfast

Three SRJC faculty members, Carole Bennett, Business Office Technology; Michael Salinger, Consumer and Family Studies; and Ruben Sandoval, English and Puente, will be honored at the annual Education & Business Partnership Breakfast being sponsored by the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce, Wednesday, August 29.

The faculty members were nominated by the Academic Senate's Faculty Recognition Committee for the Chamber's Excellence in Education awards. The awards are designed to recognize exemplary teachers from kindergarten through the university level. Nominations are sought from all of the schools in the county. All nominees are honored at the event and one teacher from each educational level (elementary, middle, high school, junior college, and university) will receive an award.

The breakfast will be held from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the Flamingo Hotel in Santa Rosa. Tickets are \$20 per person, which includes a continental breakfast. The keynote speaker will be Michael Pritchard, a youth activist, humorist and Public Television host who is known for his ability to help young people gain insight into themselves and the choices they make. He has the unique distinction of winning the San Francisco International Comedy Competition while he was California Probation Officer of the Year.

Faculty and staff may make reservations through SRJC's Public Relations Office through August 15. Checks should be made payable to the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce.

