



TED MARTINEZ, Jr., Ph.D.
SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT

May 14, 2010

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman, Committee on Education and Labor
United States House of Representatives
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ANGELA ACOSTA-SALAZAR

Dear Representative Miller:

NORMA EDITH GARCIA

On behalf of Rio Hondo College, I am writing to express support for the "Local Jobs for America Act of 2010" (H.R. 4812). As proposed, H.R. 4812 provides \$23 billion for an "Education Jobs Fund" and will be distributed similarly to the State Stabilization Fund (SSF) previously enacted in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Without substantial investment in educator jobs, our colleges are faced with decisions to make further dramatic reductions in the very courses offerings and student services necessary to maintain educational opportunities for millions of Californians and the nation.

MARIA ELENA MARTINEZ

GARY MENDEZ

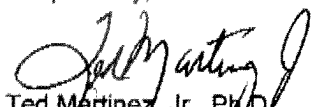
MADELINE SHAPIRO

California Community Colleges face a confluence of unprecedented higher education enrollment demand amidst the continuation of California's fiscal and unemployment crisis. Over the last 18 months, statewide funding for community colleges alone has been reduced more than \$850 million. These cuts, the largest seen by California's community colleges, come at a time of record enrollment demand. Our colleges took an 8% budget reduction when student enrollment is climbing by a similar amount. Most colleges were forced to make dramatic and heart wrenching reductions in course schedules, student services, counseling, and staff. Reductions in courses shut the doors on approximately 260,000 students. Community colleges and schools were forced to lay-off over 16,000 teachers and 10,000 classified employees over the last two years. Rio Hondo College alone has had to manage a \$6 million reduction during this last fiscal year.

Although the funds from the SFSF in ARRA helped to alleviate even more layoffs and reductions, California and other states are now faced with a significant drop-off in funding without additional funds. Absent additional funds, our colleges and schools will be faced with additional course reductions, further erosion of student services, increased higher education student fees, and staff lay-offs. Without additional funds, our community colleges will likely face sustained budget cuts while our enrollment demand increases from: high school graduates, returning veterans, the newly unemployed seeking retraining and career placement, and students redirected from enrollment-limited four-year universities.

We appreciate and support H.R. 4812. By providing federal support for education, we can keep California's educators employed and keep our classes open and services maintained. This is the economically smart thing to do as we recover from the great recession. As efforts continue to address the economic troubles experienced in communities throughout the nation, our community colleges are working to educate and train students of all ages and backgrounds to reach their potential and to help our state and country renew economic vitality. Greater strategic investments such as the Education Job Fund will help to reinvest in our future, prevent job loss, and ensure that education remains available for millions.

Respectfully,


Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D.
Superintendent/President