

Equity in Support



• **District Facilities - Issue:** The cost of new construction and facilities modernization projects continues to escalate. Meanwhile, campus infrastructure, facilities, building systems, and technology are becoming outdated. In response to enrollment growth, new educational facilities and campus supporting amenities need to be constructed and modernized.

Legislative Actions: Support 100% construction funding for the following projects: Norco College's Center for Human Performance & Kinesiology building - estimated cost \$60 million; Moreno Valley College's Library & Learning Resource Center building - estimated cost \$95 million; Riverside City College's Cosmetology building - estimated cost \$48.2

million; and Moreno Valley's School of Public Safety Education building - estimated cost \$30 million.

• **RCCD Capital Construction Plan/Deferred Maintenance - Issue:** The cost of new construction, facilities modernization, and deferred maintenance projects continues to escalate while state scheduled maintenance funding has been reduced. This results in serious delays in repairing and modernizing antiquated college facilities that could be available for student learning.

Legislative Actions: Request equitable changes to the new scoring methodology for capital outlay funding, especially the Hardship Exemption which requires a minimum 25% of the total project

budget to be locally funded to access the capital outlay funding program. Advocate for the physical plant and instructional support funding allocation to provide a reasonable annual budget for scheduled maintenance projects backlog and instructional support to address deferred maintenance needs and replacement of instruction equipment.

• **Student Housing - Issue:** In 2021, RCCD commissioned a feasibility study to identify college student housing needs across all three colleges. Key findings show that students need affordable on-campus housing options resulting in a need for over 4,600 beds. In 2023, RCCD was awarded \$75 million in a joint application with the



University of California, Riverside, totaling \$126 million to fund the North District project. Five hundred sixty-two student beds will be created with 326 beds for RCCD students. Unfortunately, this leaves a gap of over 4,200 beds to meet RCCD student housing needs.

Legislative Actions: Continue to seek state support for the completion of the District's student housing application for planning and construction of student housing projects for Moreno Valley College and Norco College students. Support additional state funding for rental assistance programs. Expand federal, state and county housing eligibility for community college students and their families.

• **Safety and Emergency Preparedness - Issue:** In recent years, California has grappled with the looming threat of both severe natural disasters and human caused emergencies. RCCD must proactively elevate its emergency readiness and response capabilities to ensure the safety and welfare of students, faculty and staff.

Legislative Actions: Advocate for federal and state annual increases in funding to facilitate vital enhancements in the following areas: lock system assessment and upgrade, security camera system, update campus lighting, emergency generators, emergency operations center supplies, and micro grids.

• **Access to Technology - Issue:** RCCD is dedicated to extending broadband access to ensure community college students have access to the highest quality technology experiences, including high-speed internet at home.

Legislative Actions: Support funding for public-private partnerships with community-based organizations or local government agencies for students to acquire high-speed internet at home.

• **Update teaching modalities:** Post-pandemic, the colleges have adopted hybrid learning models. RCCD must continue to modernize its technology infrastructure to broaden the utilization of real-time data analytics, enhance access to systemwide data resources, and provide access to cloud-based instructional solutions thereby bolstering online education delivery and better supporting faculty. RCCD is dedicated to offering quality online programs, distance learning, and flexible classes for working families.

Legislative Actions: Seek funding for partnerships with cloud service providers. This would facilitate the adoption of the best cloud-based instructional platforms and tools at a reduced cost.

• **District Sustainability and Climate Action - Issue:** Southern California is at risk for environmental and climate-related hazards. In the past few years, wildfires, extreme



heat waves, historic drought, and aging utilities and facilities have threatened Californians' health and economic livelihood. The impact of these crises is more significant for vulnerable, low-income and disadvantaged communities, many of which exist in the Inland Empire and within RCCD's service area.

Legislative Actions: Implement energy conservation measures, replace all natural gas appliances with electrical alternatives, and replace outdated and aged campus central plants and infrastructure systems with high efficiency alternatives across the District sites to reduce energy consumption and optimize efficiencies - estimated at \$55 million.

• **Equalize Apportionment - Issue:** California Community Colleges (CCC) receive about \$12,605 per full-time equivalent (FTE) while CSUs receive \$20,385 and UCs receive \$34,485 per FTE. CCC are reaching enrollment numbers of over 1.8 million students each academic year while CSUs and UCs have 651,570 students enrolled in total. CCC receive less funding to support a student population over double that of CSUs and UCs combined.

Legislative Actions: Support and advocate for legislation to make the Student-Centered Funding Formula more equitable for CCC. Advocate and support legislation that increases funding to CCC apportionments.