

## Funding Issues in U.S. Community Colleges 2007

This questionnaire collects information about community college funding in the U.S. The survey is being sent to every member of the National Council of State Directors of Community Colleges (NCSDDCC). The survey, which has been approved by the Institutional Review Board at The University of Alabama, should take 15 minutes to complete. The authors of the instrument, and their institutional affiliations are Dr. Steve Katsinas, Director, Education Policy Center at the University of Alabama (survey coordinator) and Dr. Terrance Tollefson, Professor, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis, East Tennessee State University. Questions should be directed to Dr. Katsinas at 205/393-5008 or at [skatsina@bamaed.ua.edu](mailto:skatsina@bamaed.ua.edu)

### Part I. State Spending on Community Colleges for the Year Concluding

1. Were mid-year budgets cuts or remissions made in your state's Fiscal Year 2006-2007 general funds appropriations for any of the following sectors (please *estimate* in percentage terms):

	No	Yes	(if Yes, what ___%?)	Don't Know
Elementary and Secondary Education	___	___	___%	___
Community/Technical Colleges`	___	___	___%	___
Historically Black Colleges & Us (if any)	___	___	___%	___
Regional Universities	___	___	___%	___
Flagship Universities	___	___	___%	___

Please provide any additional comments regarding the funding situation in our state, including any observations on the overall funding climate in your state:

2. Please circle the response that most closely corresponds with your *opinion* regarding the relative importance of each of the following items as a driver of budgetary decisions in your state?

*SA = strongly agree, A=Agree, N=Neutral/Don't Know, D=Disagree, SD=-Strongly Disagree*

- Medicaid increases.....SA A N D SD
- Corrections increases.....SA A N D SD
- Elementary and Secondary Education increases.....SA A N D SD
- Higher Education increases.....SA A N D SD
- Recession, producing a decline in state revenue.....SA A N D SD
- Unemployment Insurance increases.....SA A N D SD
- Tax reductions/local property tax relief.....SA A N D SD
- Transportation/highway increases.....SA A N D SD
- Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

**Part II. Actual State Spending on Community Colleges Approved for Next Year**

3. Was the community college formula fully funded for Fiscal Year 2007-2008?

Yes       No       Does not apply [my state has no formula]

Please comment:

4. Please provide your best *estimate* as to the percentage increase/decrease in tuition within each sector of higher education from Fiscal Year 2006-2007 to FY 2007-2008:

	Percentage (+/-)	<u>Don't Know</u>
Community/Technical Colleges	+/- _____%	_____
Historically Black Colleges and Us (if any)	+/- _____%	_____
Regional Universities	+/- _____%	_____
Flagship Universities	+/- _____%	_____

5. Please *estimate* in your state the percentage change (increase or decrease) in total state operating budget support from Fiscal Year 2006-2007 to 2007-2008 for each of the following educational sectors (please mark "don't know" if appropriate):

<u>(+ or - %)</u>		<u>Don't know</u>
_____%	Elementary and Secondary Education	_____
_____%	Community/Technical Colleges	_____
_____%	Historically Black Colleges & Universities (if any)	_____
_____%	Regional Universities	_____
_____%	Flagship Universities	_____

6. Please *estimate* the percentage change from FY2007 to FY2008 in total state funded student direct grant aid across all of postsecondary education?

\_\_\_\_\_ % (+ or - percentage)      \_\_\_\_\_ not sure

**Part III. Estimates, Projections, and Opinions Regarding Next Year**

7. Please *estimate* the percentages of total revenues for community/technical colleges in your state for the following categories:

	<u>Estimated percentage</u>
Tuition	_____%
State appropriations	_____%
Local appropriations	_____%
Federal (including grants and flow-through workforce training funds)	_____%
Private/other	_____%

**Part III. Estimates, Projections, and Opinions Regarding Next Year (continued)**

8. In your opinion, how will each of the following key functions of the community colleges fare in Fiscal Year 2007-2008? (please mark as appropriate)

	Streng- thened	Stay the Same	Weakened
General education/transfer	_____	_____	_____
Vocational/occupational/technical education	_____	_____	_____
Non-credit courses/community services	_____	_____	_____
Non-credit federally supported workforce training	_____	_____	_____
Developmental/remedial education	_____	_____	_____
Fine Arts and Cultural Arts	_____	_____	_____
Other function, please specify: _____	_____	_____	_____

Please add any thoughts regarding where other increases or cuts are occurring/will occur:

9. Which of the following types of community colleges in your state will experience the greatest fiscal strain during the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year? (please circle your response)

*SA = strongly agree, A=Agree, N=Neutral/Don't Know, D=Disagree, SD=-Strongly Disagree*

Rural-serving Community/Technical Colleges	SA	A	N	D	SD
Suburban-serving Community/Technical Colleges	SA	A	N	D	SD
Urban-serving Community/Technical Colleges	SA	A	N	D	SD

Please add any comments that you might have:

10. In your opinion, does a structural deficit exist in your state's budget process that will, in the long term, hurt public higher education generally and community colleges specifically?

\_\_\_Yes      \_\_\_No      \_\_\_Not sure

11. Does your state have term limits for its state legislators?

\_\_\_Yes      \_\_\_No      \_\_\_Not sure

**Part IV. Special Facilities Section (per suggestion of NCSDCC members)**

12. Which of the following financing techniques are available to fund capital needs for public higher education in your state? (Please check all that apply)

- legislature appropriates money for facilities every other year
- State bonds or other debt issued through a statewide agency
- Bonds issued directly by the institution/campus
- Local government bonds
- Current general state revenue
- Earmarked state revenue, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_
- Interest generated from special endowment (e.g., from industry and/or state held land holdings/assets), please specify: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

13. Please estimate how the total amount of deferred maintenance at the community/ technical colleges in your state has changed since Fiscal Year 2002-2003 (circle one):

- |                            |           |                    |           |                            |
|----------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| Increased<br>Significantly | Increased | Stayed<br>the same | Decreased | Decreased<br>Significantly |
|----------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|----------------------------|

14. In your opinion, what are the most pressing facilities needs in your state? (Please check all that apply)

- |  |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Classroom Space | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Space | <input type="checkbox"/> Lab/Science space |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Housing         | <input type="checkbox"/> Library      | <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Labs     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fine Arts/Cultural Arts |                                       |  |

15. Is there any consideration at the present time of a statewide bond issue for public higher education facilities, including community colleges, in your state?

- Yes     No     Not Sure     state has no responsibility for facilities

**Part V. Special Section: Legislatively Mandated Studies (per suggestion of NCSDCC)**

16. Please indicate if any of the following types of studies have been mandated by the state legislature and/or governor for the year just ending and next year:

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| <i>Studies completed</i>                      | <i>Studies mandated</i> |
| <i>in year just ending</i>                    | <i>for next year</i>    |
| _____ <i>Topic Area</i> .....                 | _____                   |
| _____ distance learning .....                 | _____                   |
| _____ community college governance.....       | _____                   |
| _____ funding formulae .....                  | _____                   |
| _____ workforce training.....                 | _____                   |
| _____ facilities needs.....                   | _____                   |
| _____ performance indicators.....             | _____                   |
| _____ .transfer/articulation.....             | _____                   |
| _____ college readiness .....                 | _____                   |
| _____ impact of No Child Left Behind.....     | _____                   |
| _____ fine arts/cultural arts.....            | _____                   |
| _____ STEM preparation.....                   | _____                   |
| _____ role of CCs in teacher preparation..... | _____                   |
| _____ other topic, please specify:            |                         |

**Part VI. Special Section: Opinions on merging or “Hot Topics” (per request of NCSDDC members)**

17. For Fiscal Year 2007-2008 in your state, please circle your opinion in response to the statements:  
 SA = strongly agree, A=Agree, N=Neutral/Don't Know, D=Disagree, SD=Strongly Disagree

**In my state....**

Public flagship universities have capped enrollment in my state.....	SA	A	N	D	SD
Public regional universities have capped enrollment in my state .....	SA	A	N	D	SD
Capping public university enrollments pushes students to community colleges.....	SA	A	N	D	SD
Dramatically increased tuition pushes more students to community colleges.....	SA	A	N	D	SD
Community colleges do not now have the capacity to meet current and projected needs of high school graduates in my state.....	SA	A	N	D	SD
Community colleges do not now have the capacity to meet current and projected needs of older returning adult students in my state.....	SA	A	N	D	SD
Budgetary pressures negatively impacts the quality of community college services.....	SA	A	N	D	SD
Since 2000, tuition increases have far outstripped increases in state support for need-based student financial aid.....	SA	A	N	D	SD
In the most recently approved budget, state investment in need-based student aid did not keep pace with tuition increases.....	SA	A	N	D	SD
Proprietary institutions are encroaching on state financial aid.....	SA	A	N	D	SD
Proprietary institutions are encroaching on vocational education grants.....	SA	A	N	D	SD
Significant restructuring of coordination and/or governance of community colleges and higher education may soon occur in my state.....	SA	A	N	D	SD
Vouchers and charter colleges are being considered in my state.....	SA	A	N	D	SD
Funding for homeland security programs is a major priority.....	SA	A	N	D	SD
Retirements are producing a rapid turnover of college presidencies in my state.....	SA	A	N	D	SD
Community college student services will likely be cut in FY2007-2008.....	SA	A	N	D	SD
International programs will likely be cut in my state next year.....	SA	A	N	D	SD
On line education programs will see an increase next year.....	SA	A	N	D	SD
A good comprehensive data system to assess the role of community colleges in workforce training and development does not exist in my state.....	SA	A	N	D	SD
A significant shortage of nursing and allied health faculty exists in my state.....	SA	A	N	D	SD
A significant shortage of STEM faculty exists in my state.....	SA	A	N	D	SD
The impact of the pipeline of transfer students from community colleges in creating providing new preK-12 teachers is well understood in my state.....	SA	A	N	D	SD
Merging or closing campuses/colleges is being considered in my state.....	SA	A	N	D	SD
Because we lack unrestricted funds, legislation was passed so that workforce training funding can be shifted from restricted to unrestricted accounts.....	SA	A	N	D	SD

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of State Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**THANK YOU!** Survey results will be shared with NCSDDC members.  
 Direct any questions or comments to: Dr. Steve Katsinas, Director, Education Policy Center,  
 University of Alabama, Box 870231, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0231.  
 Telephone: 205/393-5008 E-mail: [skatsina@bamaed.ua.edu](mailto:skatsina@bamaed.ua.edu)