



July 31, 2006

Dear State Director Colleagues:

In 2003, Dr. Steve Katsinas, who at that time was at the Priest Center for Community College Education at the University of North Texas, conducted a survey on the current fiscal climate at community colleges across the United States. Forty-six members of the National Council of State Directors of Community Colleges responded. In 2004, Dr. Katsinas partnered with Dr. Jim Palmer, who directs the Grapevine studies at Illinois State University, and Dr. Terry Tollefson of the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis, at East Tennessee State University (Terry is the former state director of Colorado and New Jersey, and worked for Bob Scott at the North Carolina Community College System office; Terry is also the lead author of *Fifty State Systems of Community Colleges*).

In 2004, all fifty states responded to the survey. We were grateful to George Boggs at the American Association of Community Colleges for his assistance in this work.

In 2005, Steve, Terry, and Jim worked with NCSDDC members from Iowa and Minnesota to revise the survey instrument with an eye toward making it more useful to NCSDDC members. When the results of the final two sections are tabulated, for example, NCSDDC members will have a list of studies that have been conducted on community college related issues in other states that they can consult when queried by officials in their own states. Unfortunately, because Steve moved from the University of North Texas to the University of Alabama, it was not possible for a survey to be conducted during that transition period.

Attached is the survey instrument for 2006. This survey has been approved by the Institutional Review Board at The University of Alabama. While this survey is not officially sponsored by the National Council of State Directors of Community Colleges, Steve, Jim, and Terry hope to make the results easily available to NCSDDC members via the Council website, to send copies directly to NCSDDC members, and to share results at a future NCSDDC meeting.

We therefore sincerely appreciate your participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marc S. Herzog".

Marc S. Herzog, Chancellor
Chair, NCSDDC