

# Important Information about Solano Community College Infrastructure Needs and Challenges



As of 3/15/12

**Q: What is the role of Solano Community College in preparing local students for universities?**

**A:** The costs of attending a public university in California have risen to as much as six times that of attending a community college. Solano Community College needs to remain an affordable, local alternative that provides high quality, college options for students transferring to four-year universities.

Solano Community College is committed to providing access to a high-quality, college education close to home. By establishing partnerships with Sonoma State, Cal Maritime, UC-Davis, UC-Berkeley and others, it allows students to take university courses at Solano Community College locations. Additional funding is needed for the technology and infrastructure necessary to expand education partnerships, increase the number of satellite locations, and expand online courses available to local residents.

With additional funding, Solano Community College can begin to offer Middle College options to high school students. These programs allow high school students to start their college work while in high school and earn an Associate's degree so that when they graduate they are better prepared for college – saving time and money on their way to a four-year degree.

**Q: What type of job training and education for people entering the workforce or training for new professions does Solano Community College provide?**

**A:** It is hard to get a job in the current economy. Solano Community College provides essential job training and workforce preparation for students of all ages. Additional funding will support our training and education programs in automotive technology, nursing, firefighting, health services, biotechnology and clean energy fields, among other career technical education fields.

**Q: Why are these needs urgent?**

**A:** The state deficit has caused years of state budget cuts that have reduced money available for education. In this fiscal year alone, Sacramento took \$4.7 million from Solano Community College and is proposing to take another \$2 million from us next year. In the current economic environment, demand for Solano's Community College's affordable classes is at an all-time high, and we need to have the facilities necessary to continue to provide job training and affordable alternatives to four-year universities for the communities we serve.

**Q: How do you plan to address these needs?**

**A:** We are working to get more input from residents and local businesses on their priorities. Together with stakeholders, community members, and the Board of Trustees, we will develop a fiscally responsible plan that includes tough accountability guarantees to present to the community. However, at this time the College does not have the funds necessary to address infrastructure needs.

**Q: How would additional funding help?**

**A:** Additional funds would be used to address priorities that include:

- Ensuring facilities meet earthquake and fire safety codes
- Increasing collaborations and partnerships with private and public employers to fulfill local job training and placement needs
- Preparing Solano County students for universities
- Upgrading facilities to prepare Solano County students for jobs
- Updating campus facilities to provide access for disabled students
- Providing career technical education in fields such as vocational engineering, cosmetology, welding, and automotive technology
- Expanding opportunities to students to take university courses at local community college sites

**Q: How can I find out more information?**

**A:** We want to hear from you—please let us know your priorities for Solano Community College by filling out our Community Survey form at [www.solano.edu](http://www.solano.edu). For additional information, please contact Peter Bostic, Executive Director, Office of Institutional Advancement at [peter.bostic@solano.edu](mailto:peter.bostic@solano.edu).