

## **Resolution in Support of Proposition 30 Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act**

WHEREAS, community colleges have taken extensive cuts to funding over recent years, while trying to educate the largest high school graduating classes in California history and need funding to provide the programs and services necessary to increase the number of successful degree and certificate holders;

WHEREAS, community colleges have been forced to turn away as many as 130,000 potential students in a single year due to the need to reduce course sections, generally from 5 to 15 percent annually per district;

WHEREAS, community colleges have carried an estimated 252,000 students over the last five years (2007-08 to 2011-12) for whom they have not received any apportionment, categorical, or student support funding;

WHEREAS, community colleges operated with \$809 million (12%) less in unrestricted apportionment funding 2011-12 than in 2008-09, including cuts to both apportionment and categorical funding;

WHEREAS, per-student funding in community colleges has been reduced from \$5,659 in 2007-08 to \$5,115 in 2011-12, a loss of 9.6% over this five-year period, while the unfunded cost-of-living (2008-09 to 2012-13) has increased by a compounded 16.3%;

WHEREAS, the Legislature has increased fees from \$600 annually in 2008-09 to \$1,380 for the 2012-13 school year, while the majority of community college students have incomes so low that they are eligible for the Board of Governors' (BOG) Fee Waiver;

WHEREAS, California community colleges are essential for providing higher education opportunity for over two million Californians annually;

WHEREAS, California community colleges are essential for providing students with the skills to be economically success in the California economy;

WHEREAS, Proposition 30 would temporarily increase the state sales tax by 0.25% and the marginal personal income tax rate for individuals earning over \$250,000 and households earning over \$500,000 and dedicate the funds to K-12 schools and community colleges;

WHEREAS, Proposition 30 will avoid the elimination of funding for an additional 85,000 students by providing \$548.5 million in 2012-13;

WHEREAS, Proposition 30 will enable California's community colleges to restore essential student service programs that were cut by up to 60% over the last three years;

THEREFORE, the Academic Senate of Bakersfield College supports Proposition 30, The School and Local public Safety Protection Act, which has the official title, "Temporary Taxes to Fund Education. Guaranteed Local Public Safety Funding," on the November 2012 ballot.