

CCCPE  
California Community Colleges Physical Educators  
Health, Physical Education, Athletics, and Dance  
Position Statement  
June 1, 2009

**CCCPE does not support the Governor's budget proposal to devalue California community college physical education apportionment from credit to non credit status (120,000,000)**

Our nation faces an economic crisis that has forced many state governments to take drastic measures to bring their deficits in check. The State of California is not an exception and is facing serious fiscal restraints. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has proposed a budget that includes major cuts to the California Community College system. **One of those cuts would find physical education classes funded at a non-credit rate, meaning that apportionment for those classes could be cut by approximately 40%.** The result would devastate the discipline. We live in a time where healthy minds, bodies, and spirits are sorely needed. Former President John F. Kennedy envisioned that a healthy America would create a productive and prosperous America, and a cornerstone of his political agenda emphasized physical education. Years later, after straying from Kennedy's vision, America is facing a healthcare crisis and one of the primary antagonists is unhealthy living and an obese populace. Now is not the time to destroy the discipline. In fact, physical education, health, athletics, and dance are integral to the health of society and academic institutions. Their role is vital in getting America off the couch and back on its feet.

To be sure, the discipline expects to participate in the pain and sacrifice that comes from deep budget cuts. The governor's proposal would, however, do much more than inflict pain and demand sacrifice. It could cripple or lead to the death of many physical education divisions in community colleges. If Governor Schwarzenegger and the California legislature consider the following points before submitting their final budget, the proposal to enact such drastic cuts to physical education apportionment will be eliminated.

- Many community members do use this discipline's classes for the fitness component. The results are healthier individuals and a potentially healthier society, leading to less revenue spent on healthcare.
- Adaptive physical education classes provide much needed and affordable rehabilitation and fitness care for thousands of disabled.
- Well trained educators use a lecture component to combine academic knowledge in such subjects as bio-mechanics, anatomy and physiology, and nutrition with physical activity, in order that students not only understand the activity but also understand how their bodies and minds are impacted.

- At many California Community Colleges, units in this discipline are requirements for graduation. These courses have been vetted by the institution's academic curriculum committee for the necessary academic rigor and are UC and CSU transferable.
- At California Community Colleges health, physical education, athletics, and dance credits are selected by students for elective credit toward graduation because classes are offered at all times of the day and are easily worked into busy schedules.
- At California Community Colleges this discipline enhances the mission, values, and learning outcomes of the colleges through promoting honesty, integrity, inclusion, goal setting, and life-long learning. It directly meets our community needs.
- The discipline promotes leadership, teamwork, perseverance, commitment, and sacrifice. These values and traits are learned by doing in this setting like no other in an academic institution.
- This discipline allows students the opportunity to discover artistic and performance capabilities that can lead to career choices. It enables students to understand their capabilities to work through sustained discomfort to reach a goal.
- The athletic component of the discipline provides a large block of full time students at every college---students who must take classes across the academic curriculum. This group of students has a transfer rate that exceeds the general student population to four year institutions.
- This discipline provides a healthy living model that enables students to learn how to handle stress and develop strategies for meeting challenges and overcoming obstacles.
- This discipline is above most college averages in load and productivity, exceeding the college rate of student retention and successful course completion. Overall student satisfaction with the division is superb.

Devaluation of Physical Education is counterproductive to bringing California back to life. For practical purposes and because health, physical education, athletics, and dance enhance all aspects of what creates a healthy citizen this discipline is worthy. **Physical education stands ready in the spirit of teamwork to join with every part of the community college system to do its share to meet the budget crisis. Making it a "sacrificial lamb" to help eliminate a budget problem in the short term will most surely create long term, negative ramifications from which our society may not recover.**

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