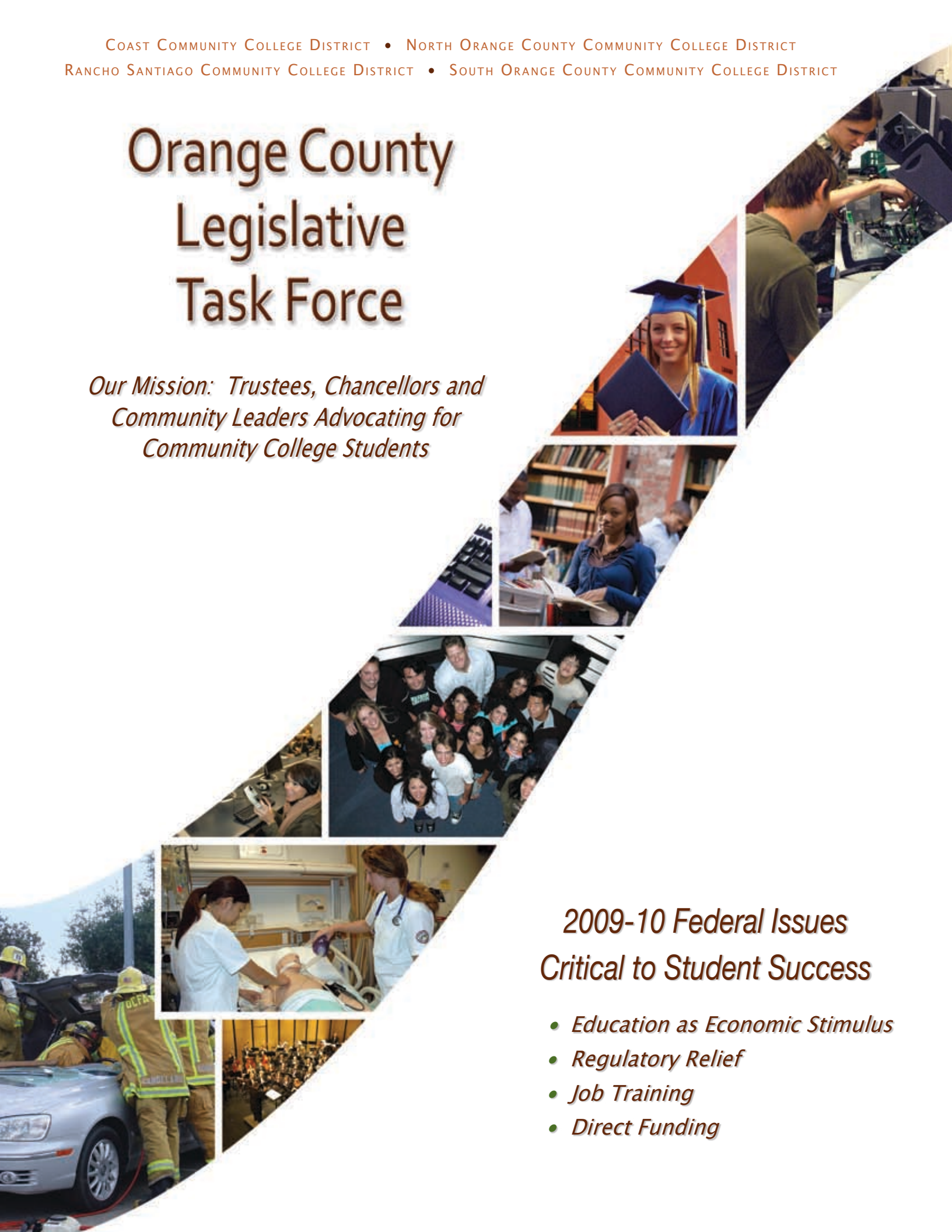


Orange County Legislative Task Force

*Our Mission: Trustees, Chancellors and
Community Leaders Advocating for
Community College Students*



2009-10 Federal Issues Critical to Student Success

- *Education as Economic Stimulus*
- *Regulatory Relief*
- *Job Training*
- *Direct Funding*

Federal Issues Critical to Student Success

Education as Economic Stimulus

Community colleges in Orange County provide the continuous education and training essential to maintain our county's global economic leadership and standard of living. California's community colleges are one of the best sources of economic stimulus – often referred to as the “work horses” of higher education. They already are seeing enrollment increases as people seek to retrain for new jobs in today's unprecedented economy. Congress should increase the federal investment in higher education and workforce development across the board to ensure community colleges are able to meet the challenge ahead.

Regulatory Relief

As advocates for academic freedom, we urge federal lawmakers to allow colleges to construct student learning outcomes that fit their unique coursework and student populations. We oppose federal regulations and rules that would restrict or inhibit the current regional accreditation process. We also oppose efforts that add paperwork and reports to the accreditation process, as new reporting requirements take faculty and staff away from important campus-level priorities.

Job Training

Community colleges must extend vocational and technical education programs to a growing workforce that needs additional skills training to sustain high levels of productivity. Federal programs essential to help fund these efforts include Community Based Training Grants, Carl D. Perkins Vocational & Technical Education Act and Workforce Investment Act.

Direct Funding

Adequate direct funding to community colleges and students is critical to continue to ensure equal access to affordable higher education.

- Student Access & Success in Education – Over recent years, student needs have grown and multiplied, stretching thin the resources of community colleges. The seriousness of this situation has been multiplied as a result of targeted state budget cuts in programs established especially to serve our most needy and under-served populations. In our state of great economic and ethnic diversity, it is imperative that our community colleges receive unrestricted and direct funding to meet the program and related facility demands for basic skills through university-transfer students. We seek funding that allows our colleges to expend resources where they are needed most each term and year, instead of funding that must be allocated according to numerous state-level budget prescriptions.
- Student Financial Aid – Despite the relative affordability of California's community colleges, when compared to colleges in other states and universities within our own state, many people still need financial aid in order to enroll in our training and transfer programs. Federal Pell Grants have provided direct funding to help countless students manage the expenses of going to college that include textbooks, transportation to-and-from classes, and housing.

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IT PAYS TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY COLLEGES!

According to a Recent Socioeconomic Study of All Orange County Community College Districts

- Approximately 272,000 students attend our colleges each year, more than 6% of Orange County's three million residents.
- Taxpayers receive a 15% return on annual investment from Orange County's 11 community college campuses.
- Orange County owes roughly \$7.3 billion of its current labor and non-labor income to its community colleges – roughly 6.5% of a typical year's regional economic growth.
- California benefits from Orange County's community colleges through improved health as well as reduced welfare, unemployment and crime, saving the public almost \$65 million per year.
- Orange County community college graduates enjoy a 17% annual return on investment of their time and money – earning \$365,000 more during a working lifetime than those with only high school diplomas.