CAUCUSES UNITE TO FIGHT PROPOSED ELIMINATION OF ACADEMIC OUTREACH AND PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Governor’s plan will affect students from low-income and educationally disadvantaged communities

Sacramento, CA-The California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus, Latino Legislative Caucus and Legislative Black Caucus will announce the formation of a united front to lobby Governor Schwarzenegger against eliminating funding for K-12 Outreach and Academic Preparation Programs at the University of California and California State University.

Event: Tri Caucus Press Conference re: Higher Education Outreach Programs

Who: Hon. Wilma Chan, Co-Chair, Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus
     Hon. Marco Antonio Firebaugh, Chair, Latino Legislative Caucus
     Hon. Jerome Horton, Chair, Legislative Black Caucus
     Hon. Carol Liu, Co-Chair, Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus
     Hon. Richard Alarcon, Chair, Senate Select Committee on College & University Admissions & Outreach
     UC & CSU Academic Outreach & Preparation Program Alumni

When: Wednesday, January 7, 2004
      10:00 am

Where: State Capitol, South Steps (Bad Weather Backup - Room 4202)
       Sacramento, California

“Outreach programs ‘level the playing field’ by countering disparities in resources, such as access to college preparatory coursework, college counselors, qualified teachers, and most importantly, they prepare students academically for college,” said Assembly Member Wilma Chan.

“The great disparity that exists in educational achievement by socio-economic class, geographic location, and ethnicity in California’s public educational system is no secret. It is shortsighted to target UC and CSU outreach programs that enable some of our hardest working and brightest students to pursue a college education," said Assembly Member Marco Antonio Firebaugh.

“Participants in UC outreach programs now account for 30% of African American freshmen and 33% of Latino freshmen at UC. This clearly demonstrates the success of outreach programs. Education is the great equalizer in our society. We cannot jeopardize the education of our children,” said Assembly Member Jerome Horton.

“Eliminating these programs as the Governor proposes would cripple the State’s efforts to ensure that California’s diverse population is afforded equal access to our renowned public higher education system,” said Assembly Member Carol Liu, Chair, Assembly Higher Education Committee.

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