

## Serving the Community



A large percentage of area High School seniors choose to attend Sierra College after graduation:

Nevada Joint Union High School District	38%
Placer Union High School District	40%
Rocklin Unified School District	45%
Roseville Joint Union High School District	37%
Tahoe Truckee Unified School District	14%
Western Placer Unified School District	48%

## Student Success

Only 15% of incoming students assess at college level for math, 30% for English

In response to area high schools' concerns about the variance between high school achievement and college assessment, Sierra College has been working with the high school superintendents, California State University, Sacramento and the California Partnership for Achieving Student Success (Cal-PASS) to develop methods to give students a better understanding of what it means to be prepared for college-level coursework.

One result of this collaboration is the use of the CSU Early Assessment Program (EAP) which tests students' readiness for college-level work. Students with low or conditional scores then have an opportunity to take corrective action their senior year. A passing score allows students to bypass math and English placement exams.

Sierra College and high school faculty are also working to bridge the gap between high school and college level curriculum and standards, which are often not aligned.

**Superintendents' Roundtable**  
**Stephen Jennings**, Tahoe Truckee Unified School District; **Tony Monetti**, Roseville Joint Union High School District; **Leo E. Chavez**, Sierra Community College District; **Kevin Brown**, Rocklin Unified School District; **Dave Horsey**, Placer Union High School District.  
*Not pictured:* **Scott Leaman**, Western Placer Unified School District; **Ralf Swenson**, Nevada Joint Union High School District



## MISSION STATEMENT

Sierra College provides a challenging and supportive learning environment for students having diverse goals, abilities, and needs interested in transfer, career and technical training, and life long learning. The College's programs and services encourage students to identify and to expand their potential. Sierra College students will develop the knowledge, skills and abilities to become engaged and contributing members of the community.

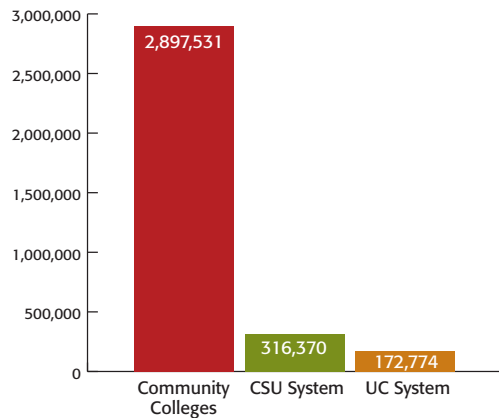
The highest return on your investment

## Facts about Fees

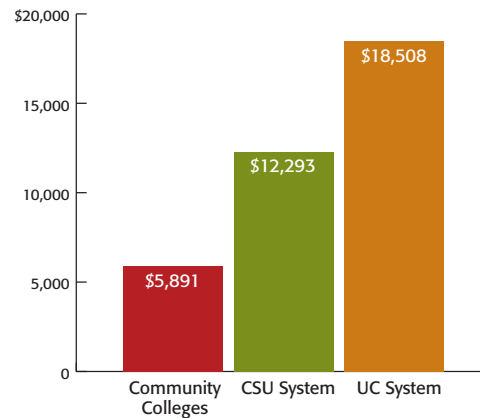
Unlike the other systems of higher education in California, the CSU and UC systems, community colleges do not control their fees; fees are set by the legislature. Community college fees in California are the lowest in the country. The annual cost of full-time enrollment is \$780. The national average is \$2,062.

	Sets Fees	% of Costs covered by fees	% of CA Students Served	Funding per student
CCC	No	11%	86%	\$5,891
CSU	Yes	31%	9%	\$12,293
UC	Yes	38%	5%	\$18,508

STUDENTS SERVED



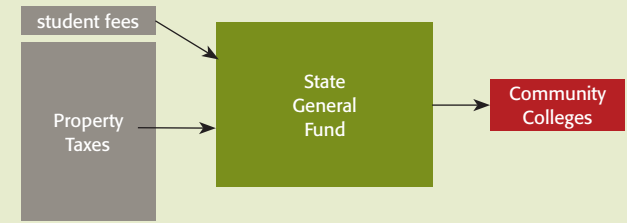
FUNDING PER STUDENT



Sources: Community College League of California (CCLC), Fast Facts 2010 • CCCCC (Chancellor's Office)

## Education Funding Levels

California Community Colleges have a broad and complex mission. In addition to providing students with the first two years of post-secondary education in preparation for transfer to a 4-year institution, community colleges provide remedial and basic skills instruction, job skills training, workforce development and lifelong learning. More underrepresented groups take the first step toward higher education in community colleges than in the CSU and UC systems combined. Community colleges strive to fulfill this mission with the least amount of funding of all the education segments (K-12, CSU, UC).



## Explanation of Funding

**Student Fees** Unlike the other systems of higher education in California, the CSU and UC systems, community colleges do not control their own fees; fees are set by the legislature. Student Fees are deposited into the state General Fund.

**Enrollment** The amount budgeted for enrollment growth constitutes a "growth cap." If community colleges receive funding for 3% growth, but enrollment increases 5%, those additional students are not funded. Sierra College consistently enrolls a large number of unfunded students in order to meet the needs of the community.

**Proposition 98** In the California Master Plan for Higher Education, California community colleges are part of the K-14 system and receive funding according to Proposition 98. Proposition 98 is funded by two major sources—statewide property taxes and the state General Fund. According to Proposition 98, community colleges are to receive 10.93% of Proposition 98 funds which represents the amount community colleges were receiving when the proposition passed in 1988. The community college system has not received 10.93% of Proposition 98 funding since the passage, resulting in \$4.5 billion of underfunding.

## Achieving Skills for Today's Jobs

Career & Technical Education at Sierra College is a group of programs that prepares students for entry into professional level employment opportunities, typically within one to four semesters. There are 23 programs offered at Sierra College that directly relate to industries within the Sierra District and its local labor market needs.

**Mechatronics** The Mechatronics program, which integrates electronics, mechanics, pneumatics, hydraulics and computer control, was launched in fall 2006. Mechatronics graduates are working on ski-lifts at Sugar Bowl, automated can and bottling equipment at Anheuser-Busch, and on underwater robots at Schilling Robotics. Starting salaries typically range from \$30,000 to \$50,000 per year. The program also provides a strong foundation for engineering transfers.

### Real skills, real jobs

- Administration of Justice
- Agriculture
- Applied Art & Design
- Automotive Technology
- Business
- Computer Information Systems
- Construction Technology
- Drama/Technical Theatre
- Early Childhood Education
- EMT/Health Sciences
- Engineering
- Engineering Support Technology
- Environmental Studies & Sustainability
- Fashion Design & Merchandising
- Fire Technology
- Geographic Information Systems
- Mechatronics
- Nursing
- Nutrition & Fitness Trainer
- Photography
- Photovoltaic Systems
- Real Estate
- Welding Technology

### New Energy Technology Program

In partnership with the City of Roseville and the Nevada County Economic Resource Council, Sierra College launched a new Photovoltaic Systems program in the fall of 2009, becoming the first community college in northern California and the second in the state to offer the program. Students will learn the skills for jobs such as solar panel installer, inspector, technician and business development specialist.

**Internships** More than 150 Sierra students participate in internships each year. Internships are a great opportunity for students to apply classroom theory and technique to the workplace, to develop marketable skills, and expand their professional network. Employers can help shape the future employees in their industry, assist students in acquiring "real-work" skills and potentially fulfill future employment needs through hosting an intern.

"Because of the education they received at Sierra College, our new Mechatronics technicians had the foundation in place that allowed them to 'hit the ground running'"

—Steve Gillette  
Maintenance Manager,  
City of Roseville  
Water Department



"Sierra College has been a unique experience for me. Not only because of the influence of our wonderful Honor Society but because of the well rounded education I've received. Sierra College may be only one step in the building of my future but I will always remember it as the first step."

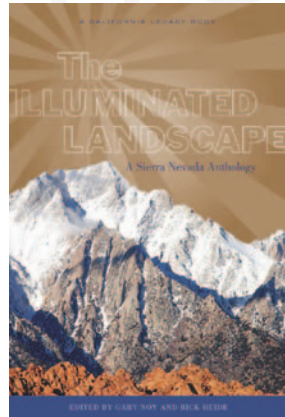
—Ahmad Merza  
President of Sierra College's Phi Theta  
Kappa Honor Society



PHOTO COURTESY: SMUD

### VISION STATEMENT

We will challenge ourselves and our community to become fulfilled citizens in a global environment by contributing to and engaging in the thoughtful application of knowledge guided by respect for others and the world in which we live.



## Sierra College Press and The Center for Sierra Nevada Studies

The Sierra College Press is the only complete academic press operated by a community college in the United States. In 2010, the Press will publish two books. The first is *The Illuminated Landscape: A Sierra Nevada Anthology*—a sweeping investigation of the Range of Light that includes literary descriptions of the Sierra Nevada from the earliest native cultures



SIERRA COLLEGE PRESS

to the present. The second is *Tahoe Beneath the Surface*—an examination of fascinating historical vignettes of Lake Tahoe. The Press has recently published a booklet on sustainability practices entitled *Everyday Choices: 365 Ways You Can Help Build a Sustainable Future*.

The Center for Sierra Nevada Studies has produced several television programs entitled “Tales of the Sierra Nevada” in association with KVIE, the local PBS station. These programs have been aired on the ViewFinder program. The Center was a major sponsor of the National Public Radio

documentary “Saving the Sierra: Grassroots Solutions for Sustaining Rural Communities.” This documentary was nominated for a Peabody Award in 2008.

The Center for Sierra Nevada Studies presents and sponsors lectures on the art, history, natural history and public policy of the Sierra Nevada. The Sierra Nevada Lecture Series has presented award-winning authors, scientists and artists, including three Pulitzer Prize recipients. The Center is also associated with lecture series offered by the Sierra College Natural History Museum and the Sierra College Friends of the Library.

The Center for Sierra Nevada Studies and the Sierra College Press work closely with community associations such as the Rocklin Historical Society and regional organizations and universities.



The Center for Sierra Nevada Studies

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### CORE VALUES

The following core values will establish our ethical principles and will guide our institutional decision-making. Sierra College will:

- Support and model excellence in teaching, learning, scholarship and creativity.
- Provide the tools for continuing success in an ever-changing world.
- Provide, and demonstrate the value of, an inclusive community.
- Demonstrate collaboration in decision-making.
- Foster active citizenship in our community, our nation, and our world.
- Create and nurture meaningful connections to our community.
- Recognize that students are active participants in their education.
- Support and demonstrate the sustainable use of all resources.