

2018-19 Budget Talking Points

The CSU and the Legislature share the same priorities; improving graduation rates, increasing access and ensuring fair compensation.

- *Improving Graduation Rates.* We have great momentum and are on track to make historic progress on doubling our four-year graduation rates. Additional funding is necessary for this trajectory to continue and so campuses can make strategic investments to eliminate achievement and equity gaps.
- *Student Access.* As thousands more students meet minimum CSU eligibility requirements, we want to ensure they have a seat in the CSU. With investment that allows the CSU to continue its momentum, we can continue to be on track to graduate an additional half million students in the next decade.
- *Ensuring Fair Compensation.* After years of stagnant wages due to the state's fiscal condition, our faculty and staff are receiving well-deserved raises, on average, 3 percent per year, consistent with those received by state employees.

Campuses provide updated graduation rates data for your institution. In addition, speak to how your campus is fueling the local economy with job-ready graduates in specific fields.

The Governor's January budget proposal provides a 1.4% increase to our operating budget (\$92.1 million), which falls \$171 million short of our request.

- His proposal translates to an increase to our operating budget that is half the rate of inflation, and is \$61 million short of what we need simply to cover our compensation increases for faculty and staff and our mandatory cost increases.
- Without additional funds from the Legislature, campuses will have to make difficult decisions to cover financial obligations, –diminishing student access, success, limiting degree attainment and depriving California's industries of skilled professionals.

Campuses describe what programs, services, etc. would receive less funding in order to cover financial obligations.

The CSU requests additional funding from the Legislature to meet our current financial obligations and make critical investments to advance our shared priorities.

- *Graduation Initiative 2025.* Last year, 99,000 undergraduates earned their degree, a record high for the CSU with nearly 7,000 additional students graduating compared to the previous year.
- *Access and Workforce Needs.* The University continues to be the largest source of the state's skilled workforce; awarding 51% of engineering, 43% of nursing, 50% of business and 41% of life science bachelor's degrees in the state each year, as well as preparing half of the state's new K-12 and special education teachers.

The CSU is fulfilling its mission better than ever before. We ask for your support in ensuring that the CSU is a top legislative budget priority, so we have the resources to continue our momentum.