



Illinois Community College Trustees Association Action Alert

July 20, 2004

Tell lawmakers: No further cuts in community college funding

Gov. Blagojevich has called legislators to Springfield again to convene the 17th Special Session of the 93rd General Assembly. Today (July 20, 2004) marks a new record since the General Assembly has never conducted a spring legislative session beyond July 19. Another record for the number of special sessions called by a governor was broken several weeks ago when the 7th Special Session of the 93rd General Assembly was called.

The Governor continues to call special sessions in an attempt to adopt a Fiscal Year 2005 budget. Since the fiscal year actually began on July 1, the General Assembly and the Governor approved a temporary one-month budget that expires July 31. This has afforded more time for negotiators to reach an agreement on a budget and other collateral issues without the serious concerns of entering the fiscal year without a budget. There appeared to be movement towards a budget agreement until yesterday (July 19), when a retreat away from a full agreement may have occurred.

Conversations about community college funding for Fiscal Year 2005 are taking place, and there may be a possibility that an additional reduction in state funding is under discussion.

° **URGENT -- IMMEDIATE ACTION IS NEEDED!**

Please contact your legislators to remind them that community colleges have already sustained a significant (3.3%) reduction in state funding in the Governor's proposed FY 2005 budget. **Ask lawmakers to fund community colleges without any further reductions and to support the special funding initiative for City Colleges of Chicago.** Need a phone number? Call Gary at (217) 737-3359 or Kim at (800) 454-2282 x. 1.

If your lawmaker wants to know where to find the \$ for Chicago, tell him/her a source has been identified.

For additional legislative updates, contact ICCTA at iccta@communitycolleges.org or 1-800-454-2282.