



# 2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE *Priorities*



# CITRUS COLLEGE

Founded in 1915, Citrus College is the oldest community college in Los Angeles County and the fifth oldest in California. The college provides quality educational experiences that support our students in achieving their academic, professional and personal goals, empowering them to make positive impacts on their communities and beyond. Citrus College faculty and staff take pride in being student-centered and in cultivating a safe, caring, compassionate and inclusive lifelong learning environment. Our college community welcomes students from all backgrounds and ensures that they have the opportunity to achieve upward social and economic mobility.

To support the mission of Citrus College, we engage in state legislative advocacy efforts. Citrus College has identified key priorities that directly benefit our unique student population, support our staff and faculty, and foster long-term financial sustainability. Our legislative priorities guide the college's advocacy engagement and allow the college's staff – as well as our advocates in Sacramento – to act expeditiously on state budget and policy issues that impact the college and the California Community Colleges System.

It is important to note that this document is not an all-inclusive list of the issues we engage in and advocate for, and it may change and evolve as new issues emerge.

## 1. Students' Basic Needs:

At Citrus College, we take pride in our efforts to provide students with the support they need to reach their educational goals. We recognize that success is closely tied to access to essential resources, including food, housing, childcare, health care, mental health support, technology, transportation and other critical social supports. According to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office 2024 Basic Needs Services Centers Report, "Data supports that California community college students receiving these services are succeeding academically at a rate exceeding the general California community college student body."

For this reason, we strongly advocate for state support and policies that sustain and expand basic needs programs for our students – such as food pantries, transportation and housing vouchers, and access to computers, Wi-Fi, and other technology.

We also recognize the diverse needs of our students and the importance of flexibility in addressing them. For example, our student-veteran community requires specialized support. The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office is requesting an additional \$14.2 million to strengthen veterans' resource centers statewide, and Citrus College fully supports this request.

## 2. Long-Term Fiscal Stability:

As the state faces large budget deficits each year, California community colleges face uncertainty regarding long-term fiscal stability. The Chancellor's Office has recommended that districts plan ahead for long-term ongoing liabilities by setting funds aside now, and Citrus College is doing just that. To support these efforts, we request and strongly support continued state investment to help provide our system with fiscal stability. This includes support for cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) for all categorical funding, including the Student Equity and Achievement Program (SEAP), which has not received COLA since the creation of the program. SEAP is critical to ensure our students' educational pathways are successful.

Citrus College urges the state to fully fund deferred maintenance to protect our aging facilities and critical infrastructure. Reliable classrooms, laboratories and other student spaces are the foundation of effective teaching and learning, and our students and faculty deserve environments that are safe, modern and fully functional. State investment is essential to ensuring that Citrus College can continue meeting workforce and community needs - without interruption, risk or patchwork fixes.

Finally, we continue to see increases to our CalSTRS and CalPERS retirement benefit contribution rates due to the underfunding of pension plans at the state level and, given that, we support continued state contributions to CalSTRS and CalPERS.

## 3. Noncredit and Workforce Development:

Citrus College provides valuable noncredit courses to the community, and we plan to continue to expand these courses in the future. Noncredit courses support students wishing to build skills and/or transfer to credit programs, further strengthening the connection between a skilled workforce and local industries.

We will support policies and budget proposals that ensure noncredit students have fair access to the same relevant funding streams and resources as credit students. We also support equalized funding across all noncredit areas. Further, we support continued fair and equitable funding of credit and noncredit education under the Student-Centered Funding Formula (SCFF), as well as continued investment with COLA for the California Adult Education Program (CAEP) and SEAP. We also support creating a legislative change to allow career development and college preparation classes to be funded by the census date, as is currently the practice with credit classes.

Citrus College appreciates the past investments the state has made in workforce development through the Strong Workforce Program and will continue to advocate for future investment in this program.

Additionally, credit for prior learning (CPL) is one way we can support students to obtain college credit for knowledge and skills they already possess. Citrus College supports CPL, as this will greatly promote student success by reducing the time and financial resources needed to complete their educational path.



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