

Presidential Budget Message January 10, 2005



Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to report that there is encouraging news in the Governor's budget message, even though the state will continue to struggle with a structural budget deficit. The Governor has honored his commitment to higher education and to the Compact. Even though the Compact will be subject to intense public and legislative scrutiny in the coming months, we are at least beginning those discussions from a position of strength. After several rounds of devastating budget cuts, it is refreshing to see the value of higher education recognized. We are hopeful that the social contract of the Master Plan affirming access, affordability, and quality will begin to be renewed through this budget.

I will provide you with more detailed updates when they are available.

Paul J. Zingg
President