

New state budget good for Chico State University

By KATRINA CAMERON-Staff Writer
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CHICO — The state budget Gov. Jerry Brown signed June 27 will add an estimated \$125.1 million in state funding to the California State University system budget for the 2013-14 fiscal year.

That's a projected 9 percent rise since 2007-08 funds.

"This budget officially begins the state's reinvestment in higher education and the California State University," Chancellor Timothy White said in a statement. "This wise choice by the governor and Legislature will further aid California's economic recovery."

Representatives of Chico State University also feel that the increase in funding is an investment.

"We feel that the proposed increases in funding for the CSU and CSU, Chico for 2013-14 and subsequent years are a critical investment in the future of California," said Arno Rethans, senior vice provost for academic affairs at the university. "California is lagging behind other states in college attendance and graduation."

The proposed increase in support will allow the university to better address the record demand for high-quality education to meet state workforce needs, he said.

"If a sustained period of re-investment does occur, we will be able to prepare our students not only to become gainful members of the workforce of our community and the state in the 21st century, but also to take on the challenges and obligations of citizenship in our democracy," Rethans said.

With the increase in mind, extra funds will be strategically allocated at Chico State.

The extra funds will benefit Chico State University in launching its "Aim for Four" campaign, he said. President Paul Zingg and Provost Belle Wei are putting student success and student learning in their budget priorities.

The university will use funds to cover enrollment growth, to address "bottleneck courses," and to invest in student success through improved advising and support system, Rethans said.

"Investments in student success will further our efforts to reduce time to degree and improve graduation rates for all our students," he said. "Improving student success is our bottom line."

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State budget benefits Butte College

By KATRINA CAMERON-Staff Writer

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OROVILLE — The state budget adds about \$30 million in funding to the California Community College system.

It also includes \$16.9 million to increase the availability of courses to students through the use of technology.

Butte College will offer 85 online classes in fall 2013, said Dustin Reese, executive assistant to the president and board of trustees at Butte Colleges. Nine courses are also being developed and will be offered in fall 2014.

The college will spend approximately \$1.25 million to replace outdated computers in labs, increase wireless accessibility, update classroom technology, replace infrastructure and to implement an online student educational planning module, Reese said.

The state budget also includes \$47 million for energy efficiency projects at community colleges through Proposition 39 funds.

Reese said Butte plans to use its share to "install building-level meters to measure the energy consumption and establish a baseline. Then the building systems will be analyzed and optimized."

The project will enable Butte to operate its buildings more efficiently than it currently does, he said. After optimization, energy consumption will be measured again to determine how much is saved.

"This will allow us to apply for incentive funds, stretching the Proposition 39 funds further and allowing for more energy conservation efforts," Reese said.

The budget includes an increase of \$118 million for categorical programs, which are specific to Butte College's Equal Opportunity Program and Services, Disabled Students Programs and Services, CalWORKS and the Student Success Program.

The additional funds will help Butte College implement the recently passed Student Success Initiative, Reese said.

"Some of the expectations of the new legislation that will be implemented in the near future include providing an educational plan for all new students that provides a step-by-step plan for realizing their goal," he said.

"Every new student will be provided a comprehensive orientation to the school that will include meeting with a counselor, information on classroom expectations, a tour of the campus and an explanation of all the services available to them."

Butte College will also reprioritize the registration process to allow first-time students to register much earlier than before, Reese said.

Other categorical programs are scheduled to receive more resources in this coming year, he said. "With the additional funds use, special services will be able to expand their counseling tutorial services, increase the number and amount of individual book scholarships and direct aid to their program participants," Reese said.