At a time when legislative “wins” in the Community College column are few, the recent passage of Prop 30 was a big one, and it felt oddly great to celebrate…for a moment. But now, as the glow of that victory is fading and we’re looking into the stark light of reality we find our overall fiscal circumstances continuing to be tenuous at best, and getting others on your campus and in your community to understand that can be a challenge.

As a system we’re beginning to realize that Prop 30, for all its benefits for K-14 education, really only prevented additional drastic cuts to a system that has sustained continuous rounds of such cuts for years as education in the State of California has been essentially downsized, leaving the state near the bottom of national rankings for per-FTE spending.

Michelle McKay Underwood, Legislative Consultant for ACCCA explained in a recent report, “Proposition 30 creates an “Education Protection Account” (EPA) that collects the funds generated by the temporary increased sales and personal income taxes over the next several years. The initial distribution of these funds will be made in June and cannot be used for administrative compensation or costs.

Vice Chancellor Troy [has] emphasized that these moneys are one time in nature, though occurring over several years: the sales tax will be in place for four years and the personal income tax increase will be in place for seven years. As such, districts are encouraged to allocate those funds prudently.

As Vice Chancellor Troy noted,
“I would rather have complicated money than no money.”

At the November 16th meeting of the Chancellor’s Consultation Council, newly appointed Chancellor Brice Harris, indicated that while the recent LAO report showing a slightly brighter revenue outlook is positive for K-14, it is not for other sectors of the State budget and the focus going forward will be to hang on to the dollars we do get. As well, other segments, including UC and CSU will vie for additional funding just as our enrollment is trending down.

Colleagues across the state report that they are still holding the line, making the necessary cuts in their budgets, eliminating programs and reducing employee ranks in an effort to adjust to an overall landscape of net resource decline. At the same time, the Board of Governors recently approved a staff recommendation to continue the freeze of the faculty obligation number through the fall of 2013.

To stay on top of developments continue to check out our Friday legislative updates and plan to join us for the Annual Budget Workshop, January 18, 2013 at the Hilton Sacramento Arden West to get the latest information on the state budget and what that means for your college and district. The Annual Budget Workshop brings together experts from the Chancellor’s Office, the Department of Finance and the Legislative Analyst’s Office to review the Governor’s budget proposal just days after release. The 2013 program will also include breakout sessions presented by representatives of the Chancellor’s SSTF implementation subcommittees, as well as other topical issues. You’ll find registration details here.

Admin 101 Class of 2012—So...How’s it going?

In July 2012 ACCCA saw the fruits of our staff and volunteer labor at the graduation of another class of Admin 101 —by far the largest class at nearly 80, and it got us to wondering, what are they up to now, six months later, with all that is going on in the system? Are they applying what they’ve learned? What’s the one take away from their Admin 101 experience that’s stuck?

To find out, we reached out to the class and got some interesting answers. In checking back with them, we found that several of our graduates moved into new positions since 101 or have taken on new projects or have adjusted their goals because of their unique training experience.

Kim Harrell, the Department Chair for Kinesiology, Health and Athletics at Folsom Lake College and a Class of 2012 member shared some of her progress with us, and we would like to congratulate her for moving forward so decisively with her career goals.

At FLC, Kim has recently been appointed chair of the district matriculation commit-
Kim is still hoping to land an instructional dean position in her future and if so, wants to attend Admin 201 when it is available. She’s recently presented at statewide events which our 101’ers are encouraged to do. Sessions on curriculum and repeatability and two on “Student Success: What is it and How Can we Measure It?” and “Mission Unrecognizable? An Un-masterful Plan” were well received and she’s made her power points are available at www.asccc.org and www.cccpек.org, respectively.

Finally, about her Admin 101 experience, Kim concluded that “the leisure activity time which was integrated with all of the sessions in Admin 101 reminded me about the importance of building relationships outside of committee meetings and day to day work activities. As department chair, I ensure that we celebrate each semester’s success with an end-of-semester lunch where we get to know each other as people first. I’ve found that when the chips are down, having established positive relationships with my colleagues makes difficult decisions or tasks that much easier to complete. I also get to know peoples’ strengths and interests and can capitalize on those when dividing up departmental duties.”

If you’re interested in becoming a part of the next class of Admin 101 or 201, or you need some advice in the next step on your “Leadership Pathway”, call us at ACCCA today or visit our web site at www.accca.org.

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**Member Profile**

**Aaron McVean**  
Director of Institutional Research & Planning at Lake Tahoe Community College

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**Why did you choose a career in community colleges?**  
Given my background and values, I have always wanted a career that made meaningful impact in people’s lives, and one in community colleges certainly does that. I went to Shasta College straight out of high school and that really provided my access to higher education that otherwise could not have afforded. It also provided me some of the most important and memorable instructors who changed my life in immeasurable ways. It is because of those experiences that I understand the difference our community colleges make in the lives of our students, and why I really enjoy this career.

**What did you do prior to becoming the Director of Institutional Research & Planning?**

Prior to my position as the DIRP, I was in graduate school at the University of Nevada, Reno. Actually, I still am in graduate school and finishing my Ph.D. in social psychology, which I expect to complete next year. As part of my graduate work I was a research assistant for a program evaluation team for non-profit social service agencies. Although my graduate program definitely has a pronounced academic slant, my research assistantship allowed me to develop a fondness for the applied social sciences. That is part of the reason I enjoy my job so much; I get to put all of my years of education into practice each and every day.

**How long have you been an ACCCA member and what do you see as the biggest benefit of your ACCCA membership?**

I’ve only been an ACCCA member since 2011. I joined when our vice-president encouraged me to apply for the ACCCA mentor program, which I will finish in the New Year. I was also afforded the opportunity to be able to attend the Admin 101 training during this past year as well, so the benefits of being a member are quite tangible for me. I see the opportunities ACCCA provides for meaningful interaction with my colleagues across the state as one of biggest benefits. I have learned more from those opportunities than otherwise would have been possible, and for that I find membership in ACCCA to be invaluable.

**What is most rewarding about the work you currently do at your community college?**

The most rewarding parts of my job are the opportunities to engage with my colleagues around a common purpose. We have a strategic plan that gives some pretty clear direction to our work, and part of my responsibility is to engage with groups of faculty, students, staff, managers and administrators to create a shared meaning based on the data of the college. From this meaning we change or develop practices that we expect to improve student learning, success, and achievement. I am privileged to work with various teams of committed people focused on issues from improving success in our foundational skills courses to strengthening our matriculation pathways. To contribute to those efforts is very rewarding.

**What is the biggest challenge you face at your job today?**

Probably the biggest challenge I face, and others in my position face, is the rapidly changing landscape of accountability requirements both at the state and federal level. From the SSTF to the ARCC 2.0 and the ACCJC (we do seem to love a good acronym, no?), the requirements for research, evaluation, and reporting have been growing and changing exponentially in recent years. Coming from a program evaluation background, I understand the need for and value of accountability. At the same time it presents a significant challenge because it...
often forces a change in multiple systems, both technical and behavioral, in a short period of time.

What’s the next step on your career pathway?

That’s a good question. Coming from research and planning provides a lot of options for the next step, which is both good and bad. Our systems are best at handling linear pathways, just ask our students. My path will be non-linear by virtue of where it started. I was fortunate to be asked to serve as our interim VP of Administrative Services earlier this year for about six months, which I quite enjoyed. Working with a great team we were able to manage some important projects during one of the most challenging funding environments we have ever faced as a college and a system, and I think I could have a positive impact in that position in another district. So, the vice president level in general will be the next step. However, given the strategic initiatives we are currently undertaking at LTCC with strong leadership from our president and vice-presidents, I have some important work to do here for a while longer.

Finally, from your perspective, and besides increased funding, what is the one change that the California community college system can make right now that would benefit students in the future?

That is a difficult question. I think the system is making some changes right now, with the SSTF recommendations for example, which we fully expect to benefit students. But the success of those changes will be based on the outcomes, not on their best intentions. Given the changes already underway, I think increased flexibility in how colleges spend our limited funds will be needed in order to ensure they are successful. For example, we have some very promising TRiO programs that would be great to expand if we could reallocate some of our categorical funding to support that expansion. They already have a demonstrated impact in improving student success and achievement, which would align with the SSTF quite nicely. So in short, more flexibility at the local level, especially as the pendulum swings toward more direction and accountability at the state level. That, and increased funding.

Annual Budget Workshop

The 2013 Budget Workshop is just around the corner on January 18! Don’t miss this great opportunity to hear from State leaders about the 2013-14 budget and discuss Community College Finance advocacy with the experts. Visit our web site today to register before the online registration deadline of January 14th — (onsite registration is also available).

Who should attend

If you’re responsible for your college or district budget, or a portion of it, or if the politics of education finance and policy affect you, make plans to join your colleagues in Sacramento on January 18!

You should plan your travel to arrive around 9am for registration/coffee and conversation, and the program will begin around 10 a.m. The day will include two Panel Sessions—Panel One: Student Success Task Force Implementation: Making it a Reality; and Panel Two: The 2013-14 State Budget Overview: Policies, Politics and Strategy. The panel sessions will be followed by a networking luncheon with your colleagues and an outstanding and informative Keynote Address. The day will conclude at approximately 2pm.

Invited or confirmed to present

- CCCCO Vice Chancellor for Programs, Erik Skinner moderating a panel of SSTF Implementation sub-committee representatives
- Ron Bennett, CEO of School Services of California, Inc.
- Vice Chancellor for Finance and Facilities Planning, Dan Troy, CCCCO
- Scott Lay, CCLC Executive Director
- Michael Cohen, Deputy Director, California Department of Finance
- Paul Steenhausen, Analyst, State of California, Legislative Analysts’ Office
- John Myers, KXTV/Sacramento ABC Affiliate

For additional details and to register online, visit our website at www.accca.org! *Please remember to arrive early to allow time for networking with your colleagues and additional travel time in case of fog!
Eileen McDargh
Communications Consultant, Speaker and Author
http://www.eileenmcdargh.com/

Eileen McDargh is founder and CEO of the consulting firm, The Resilient Spirit (a division of McDargh Communications). International organizations including Cisco, Novartis, Oracle, and Procter & Gamble have benefitted from Eileen's training seminars on building resilient leadership teams and workplaces.

Eileen has written five books, including The Resilient Spirit: Heart Talk for Surviving in an Upside Down World and Work for a Living and still be Free to Live! In 2008, the Independent Book Publishers Association awarded her book, “Gifts from the Mountain: Simple Truth's for Life's Complexities,” a Benjamin Franklin Gold Award. Her latest book, published in 2011, is My Get Up and Go... Got Up and Went. Her articles are found in thousands of publications both on-line and off-line. Eileen is also a member of the University of Pennsylvania’s Sloan Work and Family Researcher Network, an organization of interdisciplinary researchers and scholars studying work-life issues.

Before starting her own consultancy, Eileen was the Director of Communications for a national healthcare company, served as senior manager on a U.S. Navy installation project, and taught school in Nassau County, Florida, where she was elected “Educator of the Year.”

Eileen is known for her wit and wisdom in speaking about effective communication, connecting with others through conversation and changing your approach from risk-adverse to risk-resilient. She’s sharing with us her ideas for developing your own community of alliances and proven techniques for integrating your work life with the life of your work.

Robert Shireman
Executive Director, California Competes
www.californiacompetes.org

A Money Magazine “hero” award winner for his work on college affordability, Robert Shireman previously spear-headed the Obama Administration’s successful efforts to reform student lending, increase Pell Grants, simplify the financial aid process, strengthen consumer protections, and focus national attention on college completion.

In 2004 he launched the Institute for College Access and Success, where his early leadership on the issue of rising student debt prompted Congress to adopt income-based repayment for student loans. Inside and outside of government Bob has worked to improve campus diversity, reform high schools, recruit new teachers, and renovate crumbling schools. His triumphs over powerful special interests earned him the Public Advocates “Voice of Conscience” award in 2012. He grew up in California and holds a Bachelor’s degree in Economics from the University of California at Berkeley, a Masters in Education from Harvard, and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of San Francisco.

Most recently, Robert serves as Executive Director of the non-profit California Competes which receives philanthropic funding from the Rockefeller Foundation. Other prestigious contributors include the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; the Bill and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Ford Foundation. California Competes was organized to develop non-partisan and financially pragmatic recommendations for improved policies and practices in California higher education.

In an accompanying article in this edition of ACCCA Reports, we tell you about a recent action taken by California Competes to file a legal challenge with the Board of Governors petitioning for an unprecedented rule...
California Competes: Higher Education for a Strong Economy

The Project

California Competes: Higher Education for a Strong Economy is a project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc. and receives support from the College Access Foundation of California, the Rosalind and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Lumina Foundation, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Ford Foundation.

The organization develops non-partisan and financially pragmatic recommendations for improved policies and practices in California higher education. Opportunity, creativity, enterprise, efficiency, and growth are the hallmarks of economic development and the lens through which California Competes helps the state improve postsecondary education in order to drive economic growth and vibrant communities today and tomorrow.

On December 3rd, the organization hosted a webinar to explain the reasoning and data behind their decision to move forward with a legal challenge to existing regulations which they assert effectively “allow the state system office to force locally-elected governing boards to hand over entire categories of management responsibility to the academic senates at all colleges.” You can replay the webinar and view the accompanying slides at www.californiacompetes.org.

Robert Shireman, Executive Director of the organization, is a scheduled keynote speaker at the 2013 ACCCA Conference in Monterey (see his biographical sketch in this issue.)

On the legal challenge filing, Shireman said, “Millions of men and women rely on community colleges to help them compete in our 21st century economy, but illegal regulations increasingly harm our schools and students by creating a tangled bureaucracy that is unresponsive and unaccountable. The regulations are not only illegal, but they have also contributed to our community colleges’ national reputation for dispute and dysfunction.”

The legal challenge, labeled L.C. 1, calls for the Board of Governors to repair the broken decision-making system in California’s community colleges by restoring decision-making authority to local trustees while academic senates return to their consultative role as set forth by California state law. Their legal challenge includes a recommended approach for revising the regulations, and they’re encouraging anyone supporting the challenge to notify the Board of Governors by signing the letter on their website.
change to clarify the intent of AB 1725 and the decision-making process at community college districts. Robert and the California Competes Council have asserted that the rule change is necessary to bring real accountability to California community colleges.

At the ACCCA Conference Robert will share his group’s vision of the “Road Ahead” and their efforts to reinforce the concept that “to continue to be an economic leader, California must increase the number of degrees by 2.3 million by 2025; streamline college management to better address the needs of students; and effectively plan for more degrees through a Higher Education Investment Board.”

Vicki Sanderson
Speaker
www.vickisanderson.com

Each year, Vicki Sanderson energizes thousands of people nationwide with her powerful and dynamic presentations. Vicki’s enthusiasm and entertaining style have made her a successful speaker and motivator and her presentations have inspired audiences to work better together, take risks and build stronger relationships through self introspection.

Her background as a speech communications teacher, education and business consultant, professional speaker, humorist, songwriter, author and owner of her own company brings wisdom, experience and knowledge to her presentations and the writing of the book, “Life Would Be Easy, if it weren’t for Other People!” Vicki uses motivation, inspiration and humor to tackle the important professional and personal issues in our lives.

In her presentation, “Everybody Thinks They Can Do My Job, But Nobody Wants It,” Vicky will share with you real world strategies for dealing with difficult people and communicating your needs in a way that gets results and strengthens working relationships.