

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Community College Students Could Lose \$13 Million in Pell Grants

Sacramento—Students attending Los Rios colleges stand to lose more than \$13 million in financial aid support if Congress approves proposed cuts to Pell grant funding.

Because students use Pell grants not only to buy books and other supplies, but to help toward meeting living expenses, the \$13 million cut would also impact the local economy.

The U.S. House of Representatives has already passed the 2011 spending bill which slashes Pell grant funding by \$845 per recipient—from \$4,860 to \$4,015.

“More than 24,000 students depend upon Pell grants to attend our colleges,” said Los Rios chancellor Brice Harris. “This kind of cut could mean that many will not be able to continue their education.”

American River College student Chelsea Turner is a young mother with a two-year-old son. She is completing her work at ARC this spring and hopes to transfer to Sacramento State in the fall for a degree in social work.

“My Pell grant covers two of my major expenses—books and gas,” Turner says. “Books this semester were \$300 and I only have three classes. I drive to school so the cost of gas is an issue and it keeps going up.”

Folsom Lake College student Megan Shinle who also plans to transfer to CSUS says, “Without the Pell grant, I’d be homeless.”

Sacramento City College nursing student Naomi Martin worries about paying for books, “I would probably be able to pay tuition, but getting books would be really hard and I’m not sure how I’d pay for them.”

(more)

According to the Community College League of California, the total impact to students attending Los Rios, Sierra and Yuba colleges in the Sacramento five-county metropolitan area is more than \$19 million.

The Los Rios Community College District enrolls nearly 90,000 students at its four colleges—American River, Cosumnes River, Folsom Lake and Sacramento City.

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