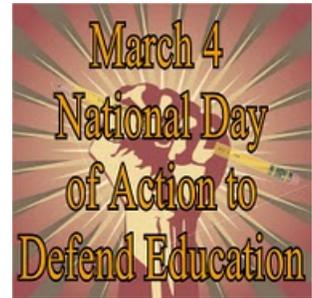




March 4, 2010

National Day of Action to Defend Education



Why We Must Act Now

From pre-school to PhD, public education in California is being decimated. State funding for higher ed has been cut by billions of dollars. K-12 spending continues to shrink. California public funding for education now ranks 47th from the top nationwide. It will be 50th if the trend is not reversed soon.

On our 23 California State University campuses, 16,000 CSUEU-represented employees have been furloughed during this fiscal year for a nearly 10 percent pay cut, and several score have additionally been noticed for layoffs starting with the new fiscal year. Student fees have almost tripled since 2002, and thousands of class sections have been eliminated.

The California Master Plan for Higher Education is unraveling, with the promise of a college degree for all qualified students now turning into just a distant dream. This is a crucial turning point for higher education in California. The future of the state's economic development, workforce strength, infrastructure and intellectual progress are all at stake.

Last year, students, staff and faculty members rallied and demonstrated on CSU campuses and at the Board of Trustees meetings. The struggle for public education dominated the front pages. And we made some headway: in his state budget proposal for 2010/2011, Gov. Schwarzenegger proposed over \$300 million each for the CSU and UC systems.

But that's not nearly enough to make up for the cuts. The CSU alone lost more than \$1 billion in the last two years.

So how do we keep the pressure on? The March 4 National Day of Action to Defend Education is one way.

Last fall, more than 800 students, staff and faculty members from all over the state, including CSUEU representation, met at UC Berkeley and chose March 4 as a unified day of action. The idea is for actions advocating for public education to occur at every campus across the state – rallies, demonstrations, information tables, e-mail and letter-writing campaigns, whatever people feel is appropriate.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, STUDENTS, STAFF, FACULTY, ADMINISTRATORS AND WORKERS FROM ALL SEGMENTS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION WILL DEMONSTRATE TOGETHER.

CSUEU's Board of Directors voted last January to endorse and support March 4 actions at every CSU campus. CSUEU chapter leaders have been meeting on the campuses with students and the other CSU unions, and off campus with activists from the preK-14 and UC segments, as well as parents, labor councils and community groups focused on education.

Contact your CSUEU chapter leaders to learn how you can get involved.