

Chancellor's Budget Message

Greetings!

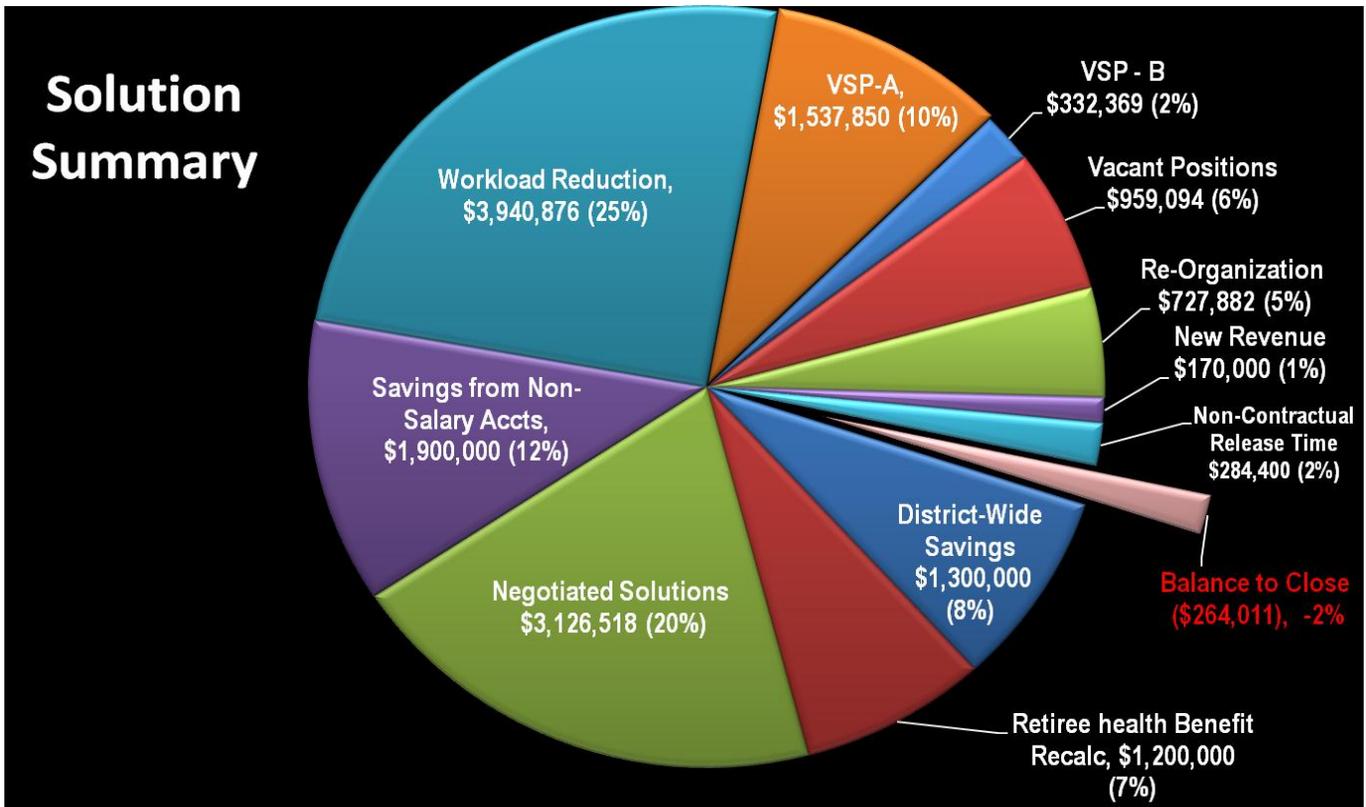
You have no doubt heard me talk recently about the dichotomy of crisis and opportunity. Indeed the word crisis in Chinese is made up of the two characters that represent danger and opportunity. It seems that when a civilization has survived thousands of years, its history and wisdom from longevity provide these sayings that withstand the test of time. We are faced with dangers, disasters, deaths, and destructive forces as a constant in life. Yet, the resiliency and survival of humans and our instincts allow us to react, respond, and recover from whatever may befall us. Just this year, there are countless examples of danger each night on the news (e.g., the Chilean miners, the Japanese tsunami disaster, and the recent devastating tornadoes in the Midwest, just to name a few). We also see the culture of humankind reacting to catastrophes as opportunities for courage, compassion, discipline, and positive change despite differences in race, creed, age or gender.



Here at Coast Colleges, the danger we faced was minor compared to the destruction we witnessed around the world. All things are relative, aren't they? But, the fiscal danger we faced in not balancing our budget was real and perhaps unimaginable as some of our Coast family may even have lost their jobs as a result. At the time of my last message in April, we had not yet closed the budget gap. We were facing a real danger of our own.

Ever since the beginning of this financial storm, I have always said that a solution lies within our own will and resolve in working together. I can honestly let you know now that we were able to work *together* to find the needed solutions.

The 2011-2012 Tentative Budget was presented to our Board of Trustees for adoption this week. Is it the budget we wished from the State? Hardly! Nor is it the kind of budget that will allow us to provide the same level of service for our students. However, each of you should be proud of our achievements in finding these solutions. Why? We did it without in-fighting, without copouts or Band-Aids, and without completely devastating our classrooms and students.



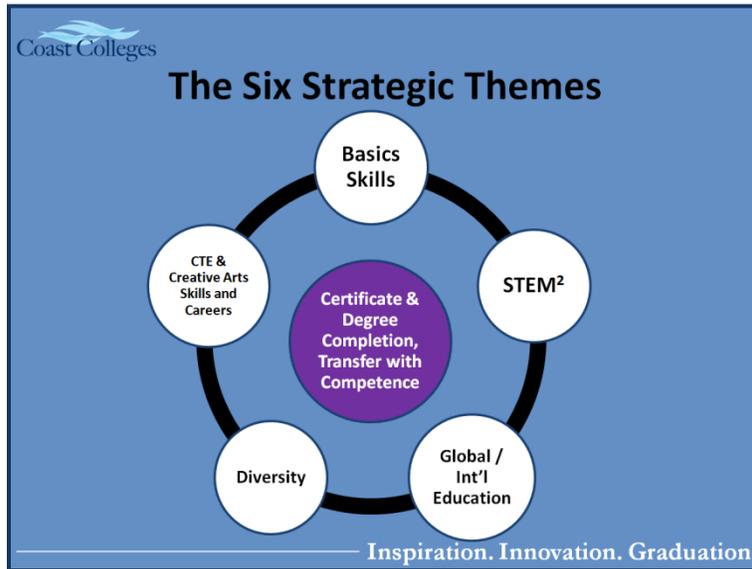
2011-12 Tentative Budget Solutions for \$13.5 Million Deficit

For the first time in recent memory, California legislators passed a budget on time. That budget was vetoed June 16th by Governor Jerry Brown. While we wait for State legislators to make their next move, we must continue to work toward a balanced and responsible budget for our colleges and students. As always, we will continue to provide you with the most up-to-date information regarding the budget and the happenings in Sacramento that impact our fiscal health.

Vision 2020 Master Plan Completed

The opportunity side of this picture is our year-long Vision 2020 Master Plan. I have not yet found a district here in California that was visioning and planning for the next ten years while resolving a budget crisis. This is proof that action and reaction to both danger and

opportunity are equally important. We at Coast Colleges took a parallel track in resolving the danger of today and took on the many opportunities for the future. All three colleges are also completing your own 2020 plans to guide your courses, programs and services that will meet the needs of our 2020 students. The District master plan sets the focused direction for all of us, while the college master plans chart out the specific routes that will help you reach the 2020 destinations. The six strategic theme directions and overarching goal are presented in the above chart.



The District is also well prepared for the potential of another General Obligation Bond measure with the accompanying Facility Master Plan. The plan outlines building renovations, new building development, and identifies entrepreneurial opportunities for existing excess properties District-wide.

A special note of appreciation goes to the Vision 2020 Steering Committee, Human Resource Planning Committee, Technology Planning Committee, Financial Planning Committee, and the master planning committees at each of our colleges.

The completed Vision 2020 Plan will be presented to the Board of Trustees again in July and should be available electronically shortly after approval. Implementation will start immediately upon our Board's approval.

So we move ahead with a plan to confront our danger and an exciting, grand plan to build our future. With a culture of unity, Coast is ready for anything and everything! Thank you! I am proud of you!