



CITY COUNCIL OFFICE

305 West Third Street • Oxnard, CA 93030 • (805) 385-7428 • Fax (805) 385-7595

December 12, 2011

Dr. James Meznek
Chancellor
Ventura County Community College District
255 West Stanley Avenue, Suite 150
Ventura, CA 93001

Dear Chancellor Mezneck:

The City Council of the City of Oxnard is concerned about the potential cuts to programs at Oxnard College. We understand that the Ventura County Community College District (VCCCD), along with all public agencies, faces budget challenges due to the ongoing dire economic environment.

At nearly 200,000 residents, the City of Oxnard is Ventura County's largest City, representing nearly a quarter of Ventura County's population. The VCCCD's proposed "proportional" cuts will deeply impact Oxnard College, forcing many students to commute to other campuses, or for those who lack transportation options, drop out of school altogether.

The City of Oxnard's diverse population, many of whom are first generation college attendees, is reflected in Oxnard College's student body -- and the educational opportunities afforded through Oxnard College provide critical career and life enhancing opportunities. Moreover, the proposed cuts to vocational and other programs (such as auto repair, film and media studies, and business programs) will further exacerbate an already tenuous local jobs environment.

While we know that the VCCCD is grappling with challenging budget issues, we ask that you carefully examine the proposed cuts to Oxnard College, to ensure that the cuts are equitable and Oxnard does not bear a disproportionate burden.

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The City looks forward to continuing our mutually beneficial partnership with Oxnard College, and we appreciate your taking our concerns into consideration. If you have any further questions, please call Martin R. Erickson, Special Assistant to the City Manager at 805/385-7870.

Sincerely,



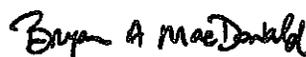
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Cc: Dr. Richard Durán, President Oxnard College
VCCCD Board of Trustees

