

March 4 Day of Action Calls for Increased State Funding to the University of California

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In response to state budget cuts to the University of California system, students, staff and faculty at all ten UC campuses - including the University of California, San Diego - are anticipated to participate in the Day of Action for Public Education on Thursday, March 4. Employees and students in all sectors of public education across the state plan to rally Thursday to raise awareness about the immediate and long-term effects of state defunding of public education.

"California's budget cuts to UC campuses have resulted in a 51 percent decline in per-student funding over the last two decades," said UC San Diego Chancellor Marye Anne Fox. "The state needs to fully fund public higher education, and we welcome the involvement of students, faculty staff and friends in advocating on behalf of UC San Diego. These cuts hurt our ability to offer a world-class education to a diverse student body."

State reductions imposed on UC San Diego's budget for 2009-10 totaled more than \$84 million and another \$80 million can be cut in next year's budget if legislators don't approve the university's latest budget proposal. These budget cuts directly impact the heart of programs that allow the campus to target first-generation and low income students, attract and retain qualified and diverse faculty and ensure that the university provides a curriculum that reflects the cultural richness of the state and region.

"Recent events should only highlight why March 4 is important," said UC San Diego sophomore Cody Marshall, who is the first in his family to attend college. "Students should stand up and fight against the privatization of our university and realize that education is a right not a privilege."

Individuals can visit <http://advocacy.ucsd.edu> to become advocates of UC San Diego to ensure that the campus has resources to provide a world class education, generate economic growth and improve the health and welfare of Californians.

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