

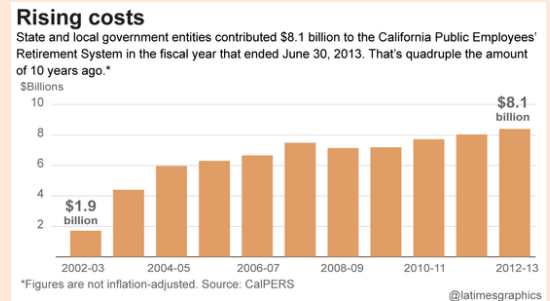


President's Report to the Board of Trustees

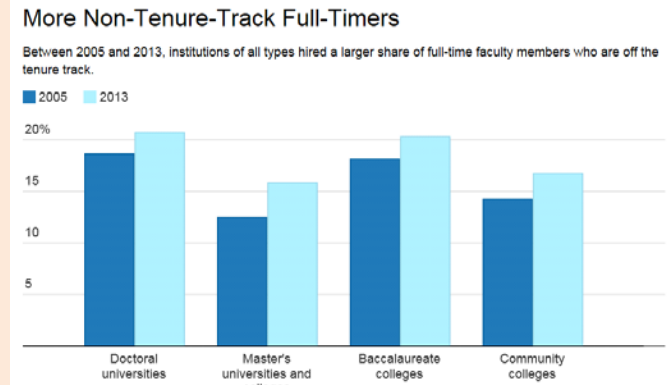


April 15, 2015

1. The cost of California's two public retirement systems continues to grow—placing a major burden on publicly schools such as Mt. SAC. The California State Teacher's Retirement System (CalSTRS) is the retirement system for public K-12 and community college teachers. The California Public Employee Retirement System (CalPERS) is the retirement system for all state and local employees which means the classified staff at Mt. SAC. The good news is that a recovering economy is producing solid investment income for the retirement systems. The CalPERS fund earned 18.4% in fiscal 2014 increasing the balance to nearly \$300 billion and increasing the funding of the retirement obligation from 70% to 77% according to the [attached report](#). In addition to investment income, CalPERS is supported by employer and employee contributions. Employee contribution rate is set by statute at 8%. The employer contribution will increase to 11.847% for 2015-16 from 11.771% in 2014-15. The employer contribution has quadrupled over the last ten years. See chart.



2. Almost all colleges and universities use a combination of tenured faculty and non-tenured faculty. Not surprisingly, the use of non-tenured faculty has been increasing. However, a little-recognized national trend is that more and more non-tenured faculty are FULL TIME! (See the [attached article](#) and the chart to the right.) Of course, this is not possible in California Community Colleges where state law limits non-tenure tract faculty, i.e., adjunct faculty, to being part-time, specifically no more than 67%. A quote from the report states, "The tenure system thus seems likely to continue to weaken."



3. Two paragraphs in a recent editorial in the San Gabriel Valley Tribute ([attached](#)) really rang true: The central irony about California's required high school exit exam — which state Sen. Carol Liu, D-Pasadena, this month introduced legislation, AB 172, to get rid of beginning with the 2016-17 academic year — is the stunning number of students who pass it: some 95.5 percent of high school seniors in 2014.

Something is clearly amiss here — and that's probably enough to support getting rid of it — when we constantly hear from our community college teachers about how many of their students simply aren't ready for college-level work. In fact, a study by the Legislative Analyst's Office in Sacramento said that over 50 percent of California's high school students are in need of remedial work when they arrive at community colleges. How can that be when 95 percent of our students pass the California High School Exit Examination? It doesn't take a valedictorian to thereby deduce that the exam is bogus. Let's dump it.

4. Is there a nursing shortage? Definitely, not just currently but well into the future according to the [attached Fact Sheet](#) from the American Association of College of Nursing. What is Mt. SAC doing?
 - First, we continue to be one of the finest nursing schools available. In fact, we were ranked 71st out of 442 in the Western Region by Nurse Journal ([link](#)). Wow! In fact, our area did really well with Cerritos College 9th, Santa Monica College 25th, Cypress College 59th, and Chaffey College 81st.
 - Second, we continue to expand funding for the program. We have been awarded full funding for our [Song-Brown RN Education grant](#) application for *Special Program*, \$116,517 to support our *New Grad Transition Program* at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center. (See the [attachment](#) for details.)
 - Third, we have reached agreement ([attached](#)) with Mt. St. Mary's University to offer the Bachelor's of Science in Nursing at Mt. SAC beginning next fall. The [attached memo](#) from Jemma Blake-Judd, Dean of Tech & Health, explains the process and provides detailed information on the arrangement.
5. Capital Appreciation Bonds (CABs) have been the subject of public scrutiny due to some agencies issuing CABs at very high debt ratios. The [attached list](#) of current school bond debt ratios shows an average debt-to-principal of 4.48:1 with a low of 1.03:1 and a high 23.45:1. Mt. SAC's debt ratio is 1.30:1. In 2013, AB 182 ([link](#)) placed limitations on CABs including a maximum ratio of 4:1.

6. Enrollment Spring Semester enrollment is about flat in terms of the number of students but down in terms of the number of classes they are taking. At the end of March 36,835 student were enrolled compared to 36,807 at the same time last Spring. Credit hours totaled 913,905 which was down 3%. Spring FTES was 10,746—down 1.7%. ([More data is attached.](#)) This trend was expected considering that a recovering job picture means more folks are working rather than going to school. So are staff on campus worked hard to get students into classes as you can see from the Information Booth photo above. They did a great job as only 3,475 student remain on wait lists.



7. The Board of Governors provided final approval on the initially approved 14 colleges at their March 16th meeting. The list of colleges and approved programs is [attached](#). One of the 15 initial applicants withdrew, and Mt. SAC has applied to be considered for offering our histopathology program as the final Bachelor's Degree program in this pilot project. Stay tuned! It was my pleasure last month to participate in a Town Hall meeting at the USC Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics in its Students Talk Back event ([attached](#)) for a debate on the Community College BA Initiative and related topics. The panel of four included two students and Larry Gordon of the LA Times.
8. Campus News
 - a. Our Cash for College event this spring hosted 800 students and another 800 in attendance to support them. This is a great event every year with attendance by many of our Board of Trustee members and many other local elected officials. Each year we follow up on the impact on those attending. See the [attached analysis](#) for details.

- b. Dirk Hagner, professor in the Arts Division, teaches printmaking. Well known in his own right for his woodcut prints, he was featured on the cover page of the Arts & Books section of the L. A. Times on March 1st. ([See attached.](#)) Congrats Dirk!
- c. Mt. SAC Forensics earned top honors at the International Forensics Association Championship held in Barcelona, Spain, March 9-10. ([See attached story](#)).
- d. Jeremy Quinn, graduate of the Mt. SC Emergency Medical Technician and Fire Academy programs, sent the [attached letter](#) of appreciation upon graduating from the Orange County Fire Authority program. Jeremy said in part, "I came out of the Mt. SAC Academy in the best shape of my life."
- e. Last month, members of the Louisiana State University Timm Quintet participated in an afternoon residency here at Mt. SAC with members of our Wind Ensemble. LSU Professors Deborah Chodacki (Clarinet), Seth Orgel (Horn), and Katherine Kemler (Flute) worked with their respective sections of the Wind Ensemble in a clinic covering all aspects of instrumental performance, and musicianship training. See more on this wonderful educational opportunity in the [attached note](#)- from Greg Whitmore, Professor of Music and Band Director here at Mt. SAC.
- f. Congratulations to former Chamber Singer and Singcopation member Avi Kaplan for winning a Grammy as a member of the A Cappella group Pentatonix. Their award was in the category Best Arrangement, Instrumental or A Cappella for their performance of a Daft Punk medley. Here's the [link](#) to read more or see the performance.
- g. The High School Articulation office coordinated a campus visit for technology as part of the college's commitment to the Youth Career Connect Program. Faculty from Computer Network Technology, Electronics, and Industrial Design Engineering knocked themselves out to create hands-on experiences for these high school visitors. [Details are attached](#). Also see the event up close and personal by viewing this YouTube clip ([link](#)).
- h. Mt. SAC journalism students did extremely well at the Associated Collegiate Press Convention and the California College Media Awards, earlier this month at Universal City. Not only did they take Best of Show for the newspaper, Best Overall Newspaper and Best Overall Newspaper design, but they won Best Website for Substance on Medium, winning over UCLA who placed under them! In addition, they won two first place awards for Best Photo and Best Photo Series, First Place for Best Editorial Writing, First Place for Best Breaking News Story, First Place for Best non-breaking news story, First Place for Best Arts and Entertainment Story. See more on their success from Professor of Journalism Toni Albertson in her [attached note](#).
- i. Jemma Blake-Judd, Dean of Technology & Health, reports:

We were thrilled when the Governor appointed Samantha James-Perez, a graduate of our Psychiatric Technician program in 1997, to the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians, and now we've heard she has been elected the Board's vice president! We appreciate the fact that Samantha has stayed connected to Mt. SAC, serving on both the Psych Tech program advisory committee and on the Perkins program advisory.

j. Laurie Hartman, Co-Chair of the Commercial & Entertainment Arts Department and Professor of Photography, reports, "I just saw the attached post on the Mt. SAC Photography Group Facebook Page. Ben is an outstanding photography student and will be a perfect fit for the University of La Verne Photography Program." ULV offers Performance Scholarships ([link](#)) in the following:

- Art (any media)
- Communications (video production)
- Music (voice or instrument)
- Photography
- Speech (debate)
- Theatre (performance or design)

k. Our Journalism program now uses the online platform Medium.com. So *Medium* now has [Substance](#), the new student publication at Mt. SAC that doubles as a totally reinvented version of [The Mountaineer](#) campus newspaper. It is the first college media outlet to operate primarily on *Medium*. *Substance* adviser and Mt. SAC Journalism Profess Toni Albertson in [an announcement yesterday](#) about the merger, explained that the impetus behind it was two-fold — mounting staff frustration at the print production routine and growing reader ennui toward the print edition. Since then, [the awards and recognitions have been rolling in](#). Wow!

9. Sports

- a. While our Men's Basketball Team won the South Coast Conference title ([story attached](#)), they fell to Long Beach City College, 72-75, in the California Community College Athletic Association Southern California Regional Semifinal ([story attached](#)). Head Coach Clark Maloney and many of the players received well-deserved awards ([story attached](#)).
- b. Women's Basketball had another great year. After winning the South Coast Conference title ([story attached](#)), and advancing to the state title game ([story attached](#)), the team lost a heartbreaker in the final game falling to Northern California Champion, Chabot College, 63-58 ([story attached](#)). Team members were recognized with several awards for their fine season ([story attached](#)).
- c. Sophomore short stop [Celina Felix](#) was named CCCAA Athlete of the Month for February 2015. After an impressive freshman season, Celina has begun this season with seven home runs, 26 RBI's and an slugging percentage of 1.200. Defensively at short stop, Felix has a fielding percentage of .977 and 12 putouts. Celina has helped lead the Mounties to a 20-5 record, 10-1 in conference play.
- d. The Mounties produced a number of strong performances at the 2015 Cal State Los Angeles Track and Field Invitational against large fields from a number of 4-year universities and 2-year colleges. Sophia Amodia was the Mounties lone female individual event winner, winning the women's 400M Hurdles with a CCCAA State leading time of 1:04.78. On the men's side, Tyler Potts captured the individual overall title in the men's 3000M run, over a 55 man field, running 8:51.12. ([More details attached](#).)

