



Good Afternoon,

After many months of deliberation and delay, both the City of Philadelphia and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania now have approved 2009-10 budgets. While the details of community college funding in the Pennsylvania budget have not been fully released, we now understand the broad context of our City and State funding for this year.

At the City level, the City's final allocation to us is exactly as we have previously assumed: City support is at the same level as it was at the close of last year. Now that the City has accomplished State approval of sales tax and pension provisions, we are hopeful that the City's own situation will not necessitate any further adjustment to College support, as occurred one year ago.

The State's final budget contains a \$500,000 reduction in community college operating dollars, with that reduction to be apportioned among Pennsylvania's 14 community colleges. While this will not result in any huge loss of dollars for us as an individual college, it does represent a turnabout from Governor Rendell's originally proposed budget, which contained a proposed increase of 2 percent for community colleges. This reduction also confirms a consistent message coming from Harrisburg: as difficult as the State budget process was this year, most observers assume it will be as bad or worse next year.

In summary, our City and State sources of funding for the current year are "bare bones" in their total dollars. We have appropriately taken active steps to prepare for such a scenario; and we do not plan to make any budget reductions in response to the unanticipated reduction contained in the final State budget.

Stephen M. Curtis