



CPEC

News Release

California Postsecondary Education Commission
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National higher education expert to address strategies in California education finance

State higher education commission discusses resource use and how to focus resources on higher education priorities

SACRAMENTO — February 24, 2011 — Jane Wellman, a national higher education expert on state fiscal policy, affordability, and improvements in higher education, will address the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) at its March 1 public meeting. Wellman is executive director of the Delta Cost Project, a Washington, D.C.-based organization that examines how higher education can analyze its use of resources and maximize access and success, protect and improve quality, and meet public needs.

“The long-term funding challenges facing California higher education can’t be solved simply by becoming more efficient, although improvements are necessary and possible,” Wellman says. “The question we should consider is how to best use the resources that will be available to increase educational attainment for all Californians. That will require a new approach to funding policy, including much greater attention to cost-effectiveness and funding for results.”

Wellman will focus on the role CPEC should play in developing sustainable funding practices to meet future needs in higher education. She will also discuss national trends and recommend ways for California to strengthen its use of data to guide recommendations for decision-making in the use of state funds.

With the Delta Cost Project, Wellman has authored about a dozen studies since 2009 on affordability, state and national funding, and return on investment.

“The topics and guest speakers at this meeting show that the persistent issues of affordability, student progress and efficiency are converging. Jane Wellman’s expertise is particularly important to informing CPEC’s priority policy work. She will help us to identify the investments in higher education that have the best return in order to meet California’s most vital needs in the future,” says CPEC Executive Director Karen Humphrey.

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Also at the State Capitol will be Paul Steenhausen of the Legislative Analyst's Office. Steenhausen will discuss the LAO's perspectives on using distance education to improve students' access to higher education.

Steenhausen's work in this area resulted in LAO recommendations that the Legislature create a standard definition for distance education and have the higher education systems collect data and report on various elements of these new options.

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The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. The Commission's primary focus is to ensure that the state's educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities.

Meeting Information and Highlights

CPEC meetings are open to the general public.

The meeting takes place at CPEC's offices at 770 L St., Suite 1160, Sacramento. The afternoon session of March 1 will be at the State Capitol, East Annex 2040.

Comments and questions are taken at 916-445-1000.

Media interviews are available with Paul Steenhausen, Jane Wellman, CPEC director Karen Humphrey, research director Adrian Griffin, and staff analysts.

Reports adopted by the Commission are at www.cpec.ca.gov/secondpages/commissionreports.asp.

A complete meeting agenda and staff reports are at www.cpec.ca.gov/agendas/agnd1103.asp.

Tuesday, March 1

10 to 10:45 a.m. – CPEC offices, 770 L Street, Suite 1160, Sacramento

CPEC staff report. *Workplan on Student Success*

Budget implications of higher enrollments resulting from increased retention of students, and an advisory committee's priorities for work.

1:30 to 2:30 p.m. – State Capitol, East Annex 2040

Presentation. *Jane Wellman, director, Delta Cost Project; director, National Association of System Heads*

Uses of data to identify trends in college spending, understand cost increases, and identify best practices that generate the greatest return on investment.

3 to 3:30 p.m. – State Capitol, East Annex 2040

Presentation. *Paul Steenhausen, principal fiscal and policy analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office*

Using distance education to enhance students' access to higher education and to create statewide efficiencies.

3:30 to 4 p.m. – State Capitol, East Annex 2040

CPEC staff report. *College Costs and Family Income: The Affordability Issue at UC and CSU*

Wednesday, March 2 – CPEC offices, 770 L Street, Suite 1160, Sacramento

9:45 a.m.

Commission Positions on the 2011–12 Proposed Budget

10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Panel discussion. *Mental Health Services at California's Postsecondary Institutions*