



For Immediate Release:

Contact: Brandi Wolf, (916) 651-4026

SENATOR PRICE BACKS L.A. CITY COLLEGE ADMINISTRATORS, FACULTY IN DISPUTE OVER COLLEGE NEWSPAPER BUDGET

SACRAMENTO – October 9, 2009 – Senator Curren D. Price, Jr. (D-Los Angeles), after being fully briefed on circumstances surrounding the budget for the Los Angeles City College (LACC) campus newspaper, *The Collegian*, today expressed his support for LACC faculty members and administrators working to protect current and future funding for the college’s student newspaper.

Senator Price said, “Based on my assessment – after conferring with college administrators, faculty, staff and students at Los Angeles City College – I can safely say that recent news reports and public statements warning of the impending demise or fiscal dismantling of *The Collegian*, LACC’s campus student newspaper, are false or inaccurate.”

“All of the information I have received indicates funding for *The Collegian* is safe, though the student newspaper’s \$25,000 budget, like all other educational programs on the LACC campus, will be reduced by a small percentage compared to other college programs as LACC administrators and faculty work to close a nearly \$8 million college general fund budget deficit brought on by state education cuts beyond their control,” Senator Price said.

“I can say emphatically that I support LACC’s administrators and faculty. They have a tough task, but they are handling it responsibly and with great sensitivity to the financial impacts and instructional issues involved,” Senator Price said.

“After my review of the situation surrounding all aspects of The Collegian student newspaper program at LACC, I must conclude there is no *Collegian* budget crisis at L.A. City College,” Senator Price said.

“Additionally based on my review, there has been no trampling of First Amendment freedoms at LACC as has been alleged by some recent critics. LACC has not violated or flaunted any state laws in the management or administration of the college’s student newspaper program, as has been falsely charged. LACC students and faculty advisors

have not been censored or silenced by administrators for criticisms of the student newspaper's funding, as critics have recently alleged, despite the widespread dissemination of false information regarding the proposed budget for The Collegian," Senator Price said.

"What is needed now on the LACC campus, and elsewhere, are accurate facts about the fate of The Collegian and cooler heads to prevail in a circumstance where misinformation has allowed critics to promote charges and allegations that are not founded," Senator Price said.

I have full faith and confidence in LACC's administration and faculty, and their ability to manage the difficult fiscal affairs of the LACC campus educational programs during this tough budget year at all community colleges statewide," Senator Price said.

Senator Curren Price represents the 26th Senate District, serving the cities of Los Angeles and Culver City and the communities of Baldwin Hills, Baldwin Vista, Beverlywood, Carthay Circle, Century City, the Crenshaw District, Culver City, Hancock Park, Hollywood, Hyde Park, Jefferson Park, Ladera Heights, Lafayette Square, Larchmont, Leimert Park, Los Feliz, Miracle Mile, South Central Los Angeles, View Park, West Los Angeles and Windsor Hills, among others.