



## MEDIA ADVISORY

### **Community College Students Convene in Annapolis With One Voice for Student Advocacy Day**

*Students Tell Why MD's 16 Community Colleges are  
Part of the Solution in Economic Hard Times*

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2010**

**9:00 a.m. Kickoff Event**

**Joint Hearing Room in the Legislative Service Building, Annapolis**

(Annapolis, MD) – *Bus loads of students from Maryland's 16 community colleges* will descend on the state Capitol to urge lawmakers to support the full funding of the community colleges in the Governor's FY2011 budget. Students will emphasize that community colleges are needed now more than ever to put people back to work, retrain much-needed employees in critical workforce shortage areas, and give high school graduates a quality education that fits immediately within their reach financially.

Representing a wide range of community college populations, students will gather for a college rally and Student Advocacy Day kickoff at 9:00 a.m. in the Joint Hearing Room located in the Legislative Service Building. Highlighting the morning will be addresses by student leaders, Maryland's elected officials and community college presidents. Following the morning session, students will gather in teams to meet with their respective senators and delegates from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Students will also raise awareness of the important roles played by Maryland's 16 community colleges, including:

- *Approximately 500,000 Marylanders enroll annually in one of Maryland's 16 community colleges --- 128,000 in credit courses and another 377,000 in non-credit courses or workforce training programs to upgrade their employment skills.*
- *Enrollments at the State's community colleges have risen sharply* since the economic downturn and are expected to continue to increase through the next decade.
- *80% of the State's employment growth* is in essential job skills taught at Maryland's community colleges.
- *Community colleges continue to be less than half the cost* of tuition at one of Maryland's four-year public colleges or universities and one-eighth the cost of a private institution.

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