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CSUEU Statement on \$100 Million Trigger Cut to the California State University

The California State University Employees Union (CSUEU) released the following statement in response to the Department of Finance's action this morning to enact \$1 billion in mid-year trigger cuts. The statement can attributed to CSUEU President Pat Gantt.

Today's \$100 million cut to the California State University system reflects a continuing erosion of our state's commitment to the California Master Plan for Higher Education, which for the last 50 years has called for three levels of fully funded public higher education available to all qualified state residents.

With today's cuts, multiplied by many other severe cuts of the last few years and more that are sure to come over the next fiscal year or two, we are seeing death by a thousand cuts not just to the Master Plan but to the dream of affordable self-improvement through higher education.

As increasingly expensive public higher education goes more and more beyond the reach of our middle class youth, the state loses one of its most powerful economic engines: a skilled, highly educated workforce.

Only with increased revenues can the Master Plan and its promise to new generations of Californians be saved. Legislators and ordinary citizens alike must ask themselves what kind of California we all want to live in as we try to balance the state's budget in the months and years to come.

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