

Pinal County Community College District  
Impact of 15% Reduction in State Aid Funding

Due to the almost doubling in population in Pinal County over the past several years Pinal County Community College District (Central Arizona College) has been committed to expanding access to quality academic and vocational educational programs for the residents of Pinal County and others within the state. To facilitate access, voters of Pinal County approved a \$98 million dollar general obligation bond issue which will be used to expand educational facilities in existing sites and to develop new campus sites within the county. In addition, the District has established several new centers and training facilities over the last five years to help satisfy the educational needs of the community.

As a result of these efforts, the economic down-turn, and the increasing county population, enrollment throughout the District and the demand for services have increased dramatically. For fiscal year 2009 total FTSE increased by 16%. Preliminary figures indicate an 18% increase in FTSE for Fall Semester 2009 when compared with the prior year. Significant increases are also anticipated for Spring Semester 2010 and for several years after.

Thus far, the District has been able to meet the increased demand for educational programs and services with the current funding levels. However, as demand for programs and services grow additional operational funds will be necessary to fund the cost of needed programs and services. With the reduction in state funding by 15%, approximately \$740,000, the District will be forced to rely on other funding sources such as increased property taxes and increased student tuition fees to replace the lost state funding. The reduction in funding will also hamper the ability of the District to maintain and expand educational programs and services as required and demanded by county constituents.