



## NEWS

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **GOVERNOR CORBETT'S BUDGET CUTS TO PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION JEOPARDIZE PENNSYLVANIA'S FUTURE**

*Funding for state-owned universities is necessary to ensure that Pennsylvania students have the opportunity to go to college.*

HARRISBURG – Today Governor Tom Corbett revealed his FY 2012-13 state budget proposal, which cuts funding for Pennsylvania's 14 state-owned universities by 20 percent, or \$82.5 million. The president of the association representing 6,000 faculty members and coaches at the State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) institutions expressed dismay that the governor has once again attempted to balance the budget on the backs of students and their working families.

The governor's proposed budget allocates \$330 million to PASSHE, a loss of almost \$175 million since Corbett took office. His budget proposal comes just one month after he requested that the State System freeze five percent of last year's appropriation.

"Since taking office, Governor Corbett has taken every opportunity to decrease funding for our universities," said Dr. Steve Hicks, president of APSCUF. "We understand that these are challenging economic times, but our students and their families are already struggling to make ends meet. Additional budget cuts are going to put the college dream out of reach for many Pennsylvanians."

In June, Governor Corbett signed a budget that reduced funding for PASSHE by 18 percent. As a result, PASSHE was forced to raise tuition 7.5 percent.

“PASSHE has a state-mandated mission to provide accessible, affordable, ‘high quality education at the lowest possible cost to students.’ Our universities cannot continue to meet these goals without critical state support,” Dr. Hicks stated. “The governor’s proposal puts current funding for the State System below 1989-90 levels. This short-sighted budget fix will have a lasting impact on the future of the Commonwealth.”

“Our campus communities must stand together for quality education,” Hicks said. “I urge the legislature to reaffirm the promise of affordable higher education for the working families of Pennsylvania.”

The governor’s budget proposal includes cuts to higher education totaling \$265.4 million. In addition to the State System reduction, three of the four state-related universities will see cuts totaling \$146.9 million, community colleges, \$8.8 million, and the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, \$27.2 million.

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