



# Prop. 1D to give junior colleges \$1.5 billion

By **MANIKA CASTERLINE**  
Staff writer

After the upcoming November vote, Ohlone stands to gain a substantial increase in fund from Proposition 1D. Director of Business Services Joanne Schultz explained that, if the proposition passes, "It will allow [Ohlone] to complete building projects without seeking alternative funding."

California is comprised of 132 public higher education campuses. Collectively, California Community Colleges account for 76 percent of the state's higher education budget.

Proposition 1D proposes that \$1.5 billion of California taxpayer money be allocated to CCCs. The University of California system would be appropriated \$890 million and the California State University system would receive \$690 million. In total, Prop. 1D will add \$10 billion from a tax-payer funded bond to the budget which funds both higher and lower education.

The funds will be utilized to propound various efforts. Proposition 1D states that the funds are to be used to revitalize campus infrastructure and lead to more buildings that are earthquake-safe. It also allows for the construction of more

schools to curb overcrowding in the present facilities. Additionally, the funding can also be used for science and engineering labs in an effort to modernize higher education. New facilities for vocational and technological education are earmarked in the proposition so that schools can provide a diverse career-oriented curriculum for pupils seeking job skills.

According to the California General Election Official Voter Guide, Prop. 1D bond will cost the state approximately \$20.3 billion if voters approve. The principal would be \$10.4 billion with \$9.9 billion in interest. Annually the state will pay

approximately \$680 million. The State Senate and the State Assembly have already voted 58 to 12 and 29 to 8 in their respective chambers in favor of the bond.

There have been two propositions among the Los Angeles Community Colleges that set the precedent for the statewide Proposition 1D. Proposition A and Proposition AA both address the critical issues of repairing community colleges and upgrading facilities in anticipation of future needs.

Prop. A focused on the general campus-wide improvements. Prop. AA went beyond the initial demands of Prop. A. It ensured that assets

went to the development of occupational training programs and to the redistribution of class sizes. Proposition A was passed by the electorate in 2001 while Proposition AA was approved 2003.

Proposition 1D is also known as the Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2006.

1D encompasses K-12 schools as well as higher education facilities in the CCC, CSU and the UC systems. It is also backed by State Treasurer and Democratic gubernatorial candidate Phil Angelides and current Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

# Teachers 'coursecast' through iTunes U

By **NOAH LEVIN**  
Staff writer

Students in a few tech-savvy courses are listening to their lectures and discussions with their iPods and other mp3 players this semester.

This is due to Ohlone College being one of the first 200 schools to take part in Apple Computers' iTunes University. "iTunes U" is a free service aimed at students, specifically those taking distance courses, and allows them to download educational audio and video content such as lectures or class discussions to mp3 players via iTunes on their computers. Students can also play the audio directly on a computer without an mp3 player.

To access the iTunes U lectures for Ohlone, student must go through [iTunes.ohlone.edu](http://iTunes.ohlone.edu) and download the audio file from there.

A press release from mid-May said Ohlone was selected from over 1,000 applicants to be one of a few select colleges and universities piloting the program for Apple. The use of the iTunes U server is free for Ohlone.

Apple informed Ohlone that its emphasis on students' needs and high rate of successful transfers were why Ohlone was selected over other applicants for the program.

Classes taking part in the program cover a wide range of subjects and range from business administration to math, English, English as

a second language, history, music and computer sciences. However, of the many subjects offered, only four currently have any content available to students and all of it is audio.

Assistant Professor of Mathematics Jeff O'Connell had material available through iTunes U but eventually took it down and relocated it to his personal site due to bugs in the system. O'Connell said, "There have been minor technical difficulties, which is why I took off what I had up."

Once the final bug fixes are completed, it is expected that instructors will be able to easily post lectures, change content and allow students to upload their own content to share

with the class. Eventually, students will have the ability to browse through all available content and teachers will be given the ability to configure files to be openly or securely accessible as needed.

Ralph Kindred, vice-president of information technology, stated that Ohlone students and faculty alike showed a definite interest in the project when Ohlone's participation was announced. Ohlone joined the program to give its students more flexibility, said Kindred, while also emphasizing that the school was still in a pilot phase of the program, with only 10 faculty members currently learning the program.

A "coursecasting" training workshop was held in Hyman Hall early

in the semester, with 25 faculty members attending and participating, indicating strong faculty interest and support.

Though aimed at distance students, the service is available to all students on and off campus. This leaves some teachers wary of using the program and uploading lectures, not wanting to encourage students to skip class and instead download a lecture from iTunes U.

O'Connell said that he believes more teachers will use the service when the problems are worked out.

Fears aside, the program is still young and experiencing bugs; the number of instructors who will actually use it remains to be seen.

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