



## Questions and Answers

Because other California colleges, both public and private, are becoming so expensive, more and more people are relying on community colleges for some or all of their education. Southwestern College is one of 110 public community colleges in the state of California and the only institution of higher education located in the southern portion of San Diego County.

Southwestern College is the primary source for educating and training local firefighters and emergency response personnel who serve our communities, the nurses who work at area hospitals, and the police officers who patrol our neighborhoods.

### **Q: What Are Southwestern College's Urgent Repair Needs?**

**A:** Many of our other classrooms are in older buildings that no longer meet current earthquake safety and handicap accessibility standards.

We need to make basic repairs including removing mold, lead paint and asbestos, and other desperately needed improvements so students can learn in healthy and safe classrooms.

### **Q: What Are Southwestern College's Program Needs?**

**A:** Southwestern College is the primary source for educating and training the local police officers, firefighters, nurses and emergency response personnel who serve our communities.

We need to upgrade career and vocational classrooms, labs and equipment to provide students with opportunities to learn job skills. In addition we need to increase training opportunities for nurses, police officers, firefighters and emergency response personnel.

By partnering with our local fire districts, the college could train more firefighters and paramedics to serve our communities and enhance the training they receive, so they can be better prepared to respond to emergencies and fires.

### **Q: How Do You Plan To Address These Needs?**

**A:** We're currently working with students, teachers, community members, and the Board of Trustees to develop a fiscally responsible plan to present to the Community. One potential solution we are seriously considering is to place a bond measure on the November 2008 ballot.

### **Q: What Are Some Of The Key Needs?**

**A:** Our key repair needs include:

- Retrofitting all buildings and classrooms for earthquake safety as required by law
- Installing and repairing fire safety equipment including alarms, smoke detectors, sprinklers, emergency lighting, and fire safety doors
- Removing asbestos and lead paint

- Improving energy efficiency by replacing outdated heating and ventilation systems and expanding water recycling programs
- Upgrading outdated and deteriorating buildings and classrooms
- Meeting handicap accessibility requirements
- Repairing and renovating classrooms that lack adequate plumbing, heating, air conditioning, or ventilation
- Upgrading electrical systems and wiring for computer technology and internet access

**Q: How Can We Be Sure Funds Would Be Spent As Promised?**

A: Any bond measure proposed will include strong fiscal accountability procedures in writing, including a public expenditure plan and independent annual audits. An Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee will also monitor spending and guarantee that all funds are being spent as promised with no money for administrator salaries.