

N ALPHA GAMMA SIGMA NEWSLETTER

Glendale Community College

September 2011

How Could Oil Potentially Save California Education?

A ballot initiative that could generate \$2-3 billion in revenue to be contributed towards California's declining educational system

For the third time in the past three decades, California residents are gathering signatures for a ballot initiative that will impose a tax on crude oil extraction in the state of California. Currently, it is the only state that does not have an oil extraction tax in place although it is the 3rd biggest producer. This proposition mandates a 15% fee on each barrel of crude oil extracted onshore or offshore, generating a potential \$3.6 billion in revenue annually at current 2011 gas prices. The funds made available through this process will be allocated towards the educational system, augmenting California's stagnant economy and reversing a portion of the adverse effects the budget crisis has had on education in recent years.



California's educational system has dropped to 47th in the nation. With the support of these additional funds, college and university tuition will be reduced, cut class sections will be restored, laid-off professors will be re-hired, and class sizes K-12 will be reduced. This additional

revenue will be appropriated for non-capital purposes to three large benefactors. The California Community College System will receive 48%, approximately \$1.72 billion. K-12 shall receive 30% and the remaining 22% will be split evenly between the California State University and University of California systems. The revenue from the proposition is exclusively for educational purposes and will be deposited

into a special account entirely independent of the State General Fund. Additionally, the state will not be permitted to reduce its regular funding for education. Anti-trust and anti-collision laws and the specifications of this proposition prohibit the oil companies from passing on the extraction tax to any refineries, gas stations, or consumer, meaning the tax will not have an impact on gas prices. As it is, the impact on oil companies will be minimal as they gross hundreds of billions of dollars a year. Every other state of the union and numerous major gas-producing nations have a similar tax in effect and it has never been a partisan issue before in the United States.

The Student Senate for California Community Colleges voted unanimously to support Prop 1481 in August. Numerous student associations, teacher's unions, media networks, and state educational boards support this initiative. California can no longer afford to give preferential treatment to oil companies when its educational system is steadily in decline and worsening with time. Moreover, oil is a non-renewable energy source that is being rapidly depleted and could be serving a significant purpose. On another note, passage of this proposition could instigate a movement towards the development and implementation of alternative energy resources that have already been discovered but are scarcely used.

Through the success of this initiative, there could be a positive shift in California's economic climate and an exponential incline of the quality of education throughout the state. For more information on Prop 1481, visit rescueeducationcalifornia.org.

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ABOUT AGS



A Brief History of Alpha Gamma Sigma:

The Glendale Community College chapter of the Alpha Gamma Sigma Honors Society was the second in the state to form following Pasadena, earning it the title of "Gamma" Chapter. AGS is the only statewide community college honor scholarship society intended "to promote, recognize, encourage, and foster scholarship and educational attainments among students of the junior colleges of the State of California; to recognize students attaining high scholastic records; to make students more conscious of the advantage of high scholarship; to bring together students attaining high scholastic records for their mutual benefit."

Originally named the California Junior College Honor Society when it was created in 1925, AGS later adopted the Greek letters which stand for excellence, knowledge, and wisdom. The statewide AGS motto is "Add to good character, knowledge, and judgment", an adage proven by the successes of thousands of members to date who have taken the leadership, community service, scholarship, and teamwork learned in their time as honors students to do incredible things with their futures.

Glendale College offers two AGS membership options to students, active and inactive. Both members must fulfill the same minimum requirements of completion of 12 units and a 3.0 cumulative GPA with an exception for students coming in from high school as honors pupils. They have their own separate special requirements. Inactive membership is far more common as it merely requires students meeting the requirements for membership to pay their dues each semester. Active members must complete at least 100 points through community service, attendance of meetings and fundraisers, and participation in club activities. Though a larger time commitment, active members have found the experience to be worth the time as they learned valuable skills, made friends, and gave back to the community along the way. Additionally, active members qualify for club-funded scholarships at the end of each year.

For more information about membership or to apply, please visit www.glendale.edu/ags or feel free to contact any of the cabinet members or our advisor with any

Dear current and prospective AGS members,

It is truly an honor and a privilege to hold the position of President of the second chapter that is Alpha Gamma Sigma during the 2011-2012 school year. This fall semester is again a time for all Glendale Community College students to pursue their dreams and ambitions through their education as well as dedication to community service. AGS stands proud as we are one of many clubs that have successfully provided fundraising, academic, and community service events to the students. Both active and inactive members will receive the honors seal on their transcripts and active members will be eligible to apply for our scholarships which will be awarded at the end of the semester. The AGS cabinet officers and I wish all of you the best in your ambitious pursuits this semester.

Good luck to you all!

George Skriabin
AGS President



Cabinet members Artin Saedi, George Skriabin, Chris Wise, Linda Bouray, Nune Grigoryan, Taline Shishonian, Bianca Saleebyan, and Ritika Pandita

Value of Student Involvement at Glendale Community College

Student life at Glendale Community College can be a formidable and daunting task at times, especially for new incoming students. From the pressure of excelling in their studies to balancing their personal lives, many cannot imagine putting any more on their plates as it is from the fear of being overrun with all of their commitments. However, students that can multi-task successfully and manage the extra load of work greatly benefit from the advantages of being involved in extra-curricular activities.

There are numerous different clubs and organizations that operate within the college that both build students' character and provide service to the community. There is almost certainly at least one program that can cater to each student's interest. Honors programs such as Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society (AGS) and the Scholars Program offer high achieving students an opportunity to celebrate their achievement with equally competitive scholars. The Shadow Days Program offered by Student Outreach Services and the S.P.A.R.K. club provide mentorship opportunities to student's who wish to share their successes at GCC with incoming students.

The Associated Students of Glendale Community College (ASGCC) is the student government which handles the budgeting and allocation of funds for numerous student services across campus, as well as representing the student body in the shared governance system, putting on free activities for the students, and acting as liaison between

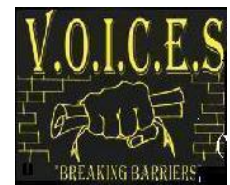
clubs. Through ASGCC, there are over 60 clubs that are entirely student run that cater to a variety of interests. Some special interest clubs include Cooking Club, Theatre Guild, Chess Club, Intramural Sports GCC Stands up to Cancer, and multiple medical and science clubs. Service organizations include Circle K International which is the college division of Kiwanis Club, the Leo's Club, Global Mindset Group, and VOICES which spreads community awareness and provides financial aid opportunities for undocumented students. A diverse selection of cultural and religious clubs allows students a chance to learn more about one another. Many of these clubs provide scholarships for their members in addition to holding events and fundraisers that are open to the whole campus regardless of membership.

On another note, many of the academic programs on campus have opportunities for students to get involved and still get course credit. The dance, music, and theatre programs all offer performance opportunities to students that are open to anyone as long as they enroll in the appropriate classes. GCC has an immense athletics program with numerous men's and women's sports teams. Journalism students can write for the campus newspaper, the El Vaquero, art students can have their work featured in the art gallery adjacent to the library, culinary arts students actually cook for various campus functions like banquets, and science students have opportunities like the Baja Program to get hands on experience. A variety of tech-

nical programs like Welding, Pilot's Training, and Animation are offered. There is also a yearly study abroad trip. These programs all provide class credit while allowing students to explore their interests in hands on ways. Internships are accessible through the career center and community service opportunities are available through the Center for Student Involvement.

Through participation in any of the various activities or programs offered at GCC, students gain character, develop leadership and organizational skills, build networking abilities, make friends, give back to the community, provide scholarship opportunities, and of course, have something besides academics to put on their transfer applications. Being involved in these organizations has benefitted the community due to the selfless efforts put in by students who participated in events such as beach clean ups, soup kitchen volunteering, putting in time at nonprofit organizations, and more. GCC has become an intricate part of student to community relations through its many pro-grams and its student leaders.

The main point that can be established from all this is that being active in the college's many available opportunities is a great way to better oneself in numerous ways as well as develop a competitive edge come time to apply for transfer. The opportunities are there – it is now in the hands of the students to take that step and work out a balance so they can benefit mutually from all aspects of student life.

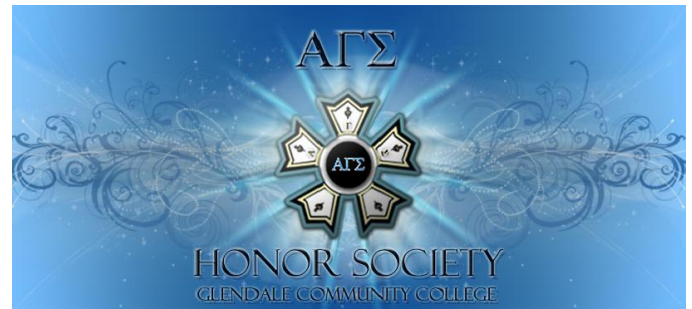


CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 2011						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6 Hello Wallet	7	8
9	10 Dave and Busters	11	12	13 General Meeting	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Beach Clean-up
23	24	25	26	27 General Meeting	28 Deadline To Apply For Active	29
30	31					

NOVEMBER 2011						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Project Angelfood	5
6	7	8	9	10 General Meeting	11 Campus Closed	12 Beach Clean-up
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Beach Clean-up
20	21	22	23	24 Campus Closed	25 Campus Closed	26
27	28	29	30			

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WWW.GLENDALE.EDU/AGS OR
FRIEND “GCC AGS” ON FACEBOOK**