



## Education budget passes both houses and awaits governor's signature

Unlike last year, when Governor Bob Riley was forced to call a special session in order for the Legislature to pass a contentious education budget, the House and the Senate made quick work of the task this week in the waning days of the regular session.

Perhaps it was because there was a lot less to argue about – in the case of the Alabama Community College System, \$60 million less for FY09-10 than just two years ago.

All told, the system has seen its state funding slashed by nearly 13% over the past two years.

“It’s certainly painful,” said Chancellor Bradley Byrne.

“But we in the two-year college system are making out better than a lot of other folks because we recognized more than a year ago that trouble was ahead, and we started planning for it.”

Byrne thanked Gov. Riley for his support of the two-year college system and his leadership throughout this budget crisis.

The chancellor praised ACCS presidents and system leaders for their creativity in finding ways to reduce and eliminate costs in order to protect jobs and core programs.

“It’s just good management, pure and simple.”

### A message from the Chancellor ...

Times like these show what people are really like.

In the case of the people of the Alabama Community College System, the recession has proven that our people are strong, creative, and focused.

We have managed to absorb \$60 million in cuts without wide-scale layoffs or reductions in any of our core academic, adult education or workforce training programs.

That is an absolutely amazing accomplishment, but I have come to expect no less of you.

Bradley Byrne

## How \$timulating was the \$timulus?

Who got what from the \$39.5 billion Stabilization Fund for education?

Here it is, in brief:

*To be used over the next two years*

### State of Alabama

- \$596.4 million Education Block Grant
- \$132.7 million Flexible Block Grant

*FY09-10 (pending approval from the governor)*

K-12: \$179.4 million

Higher education: \$118.7 million\*

(\*includes \$17.9 million for ACCS)