HIGHER EDUCATION:

Building The Region's Economic Snowpack

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A series of high-powered El Nino storms battered Northern California last month, and the disruption and devastation they caused were substantial. But the storms were good news for a state that has been enduring a drought for the past three years. The snowpack is back to normal, lakes are filling back up, and as the state's chief of snow surveys said, there is "reason to celebrate."

The economic El Nino this region has been enduring over the past two years is hardly good news, but it too will pass. The question we have to answer is, in what shape will we be when the sunny days of the boom economy return?

It was with enthusiasm that Drexel opened our new Graduate Center in downtown Sacramento thirteen months ago. Since then, and despite the economy, we have actually increased the number of graduate programs we are offering and increased the financial aid to our students. We are using and teaching our students to use, cutting edge technology in their studies, research, and presentations. They are gaining the substantive knowledge and practical skills they will need to succeed in their careers and to be ready when the ice melts and the Sacramento region is again awhash with innovation.

No one knows when that will be. But everyone knows this is the worst possible time to cut funding to the CSU, UC and Community College systems. Difficult as it will be, it is the right time for businesses to be increasing their tuition assistance programs and investing in the education of their workforce at all levels, sharpening them up the way farmers do their tools during the winter.

And for the working professionals who want to be ready for the flood of opportunity that is sure to come, there is no better time than now to get your graduate degree — because a bachelor's is just not good enough anymore.

It's time to build your snowpack.

Located at One Capitol Mall in Sacramento Drexel University is currently enrolling students for classes starting in March in one-doctorate and five master's programs that are key to the future's economic future.

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