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# State Faces Shortage Of College Professors

34,000 jobs need to be  
filled over next decade

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The face of California's public colleges and universities will change dramatically in the next decade as a projected enrollment boom coincides with a graying professorate.

The result is that more than 34,000 new professors will have to be recruited in the first major hiring program since the 1970s. At stake, educators say, is nothing less than the quality of the state's higher education system for a generation to come.

But with the risk, they say, comes an extraordinary chance to remake the institutions as stronger and more diverse.

"This is an incredible opportunity. It is also scary because we have to do it right," said Larry Coleman, a physics professor at the University of California at Davis and president of UC's Academic Senate. "You are talking about hiring essentially the faculty of the UC for the next century. The group that we will be hiring in the next decade will be with us until 2050."

Experts predict a similar hiring surge in Florida, Texas and Arizona, where there is also rapid enrollment growth.

While most private universities, such as Stanford, expect little growth, the state's public institutions have a mandate to educate all high school graduates. Projections by the California Postsecondary Education Commission show higher education enrollment ballooning by 35.7 percent by 2010 — an increase of 714,753 students over the 2 million enrolled in the state in 1998.

At the same time that children of the Baby Boomers are hitting college age and a growing immigrant population is crowding into class-