



S D C C D C T E P A R T N E R S H I P
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REGIONAL FORUM

On April 15, 2009, the San Diego Community College District and San Diego County Office of Education co-hosted the Region X CTE Community Collaborative Forum. The forum included the Collaboratives from San Diego Community College District; MiraCosta College; Palomar College; Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District and Southwestern College. It brought together ROP Directors, Secondary Education Directors/Coordinators, CTE Deans, and Tech Prep Directors to share what strategies are working; discuss challenges; expand the communication loop; and plan for future coordination of collaborative efforts.

The results from the Regional Forum indicate that the Community Collaboratives need to focus on better preparing students for community college in order to reduce the number of students who require remediation. Poor literacy and math skills do not only cause students to drop out of their programs, they also cause students to fail required exams for their programs. Students who do not pass the exams are required to enroll in remedial classes and delay their entrance into a career.

In preparation for the next round of SB70 funds, SDCCD will discuss options for incorporating innovative strategies to address concerns about college readiness and basic skills. Options discussed at the forum included offering more courses at the high school level. This will enable students to directly apply and enter the program of their choice instead of being placed on a waiting list once they finish all the required courses at the community college. Participants also decided that Collaboratives should partner with the Basic Skills Initiative (BSI) on their respective campuses to begin changing teaching methodologies in English, math, and science.

As discussed, students are not only deficient in basic skills, they are often unprepared for their courses and they lack a basic understanding of college requirements. To increase student awareness and expose students to community college, forum participants agreed that a community college counselor should visit partnering high schools once a week to meet with every junior and senior. While this provides students a connection to the community college, they will also learn about different aspects of college, what courses are available, what requirements are needed for certain programs, and what to expect.

Lastly, it was determined that, because of funds available, too many of the Collaboratives in the region focus on healthcare. Strategies should transcend areas of focus to allow students to train in the profession of their choice. Participants concluded that Collaboratives should expand their career pathways into other areas to provide students more options.

EVALUATION SITE VISIT

To account for state funds allocated to the Governor's Career and Technical Education Initiative, a research and development agency, WestEd, is conducting the CTE Pathways Initiative Statewide Evaluation. Findings from the evaluation will be incorporated into the Governor's Annual Report in July. WestEd has collected data on the Community Collaboratives through site visits, program observations, interviews, and an online data collection tool. In March, a WestEd evaluator met with SDCCD CTE Community Collaborative Project Directors to perform a qualitative assessment to better understand the challenges and successes of the Collaborative's activities and services. The evaluator also visited with My Dream project leaders, counselors, and students at Marshall Middle School to discuss the success of the project and student receptiveness. Overall the evaluator's comments were positive in regards to the diversity of SDCCD's projects. She was also impressed that SDCCD and SDCOE took the initiative to organize and host a regional forum. The same evaluator attended the forum with the intention of including it as an anecdote in the Governor's report.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Collaborative projects that are funded between June 1, 2008 and January 31, 2010 are currently underway and are progressing as planned. The newly awarded projects with funding from February 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 are beginning to implement their activities. The Collaborative anticipates that these projects will be fully underway by May, with expectations that the preliminary work will be completed and ready for implementation in the fall.

SUSTAINABILITY

Plans for the Workforce Innovations Partnership (WIP) Sustainability Initiative, which focuses on curriculum development and building programs of study as it relates to green jobs, will not move forward until the Green Corps grant (ARRA funds) is awarded. If awarded, half of the WIP funds will support the Green Corps project, while the other half will fund the WIP Sustainability Initiative projects. This will allow the District to leverage funds in the most strategic manner and undergo the planning process for both grants simultaneously.

In the meantime, the WIP Sustainability Initiative Project Director is conducting an assessment to define what actions the colleges are taking in regards to sustainability. This will help identify programmatic gaps and determine how the initiative can augment or support the colleges' plans for sustainability. Collaborative leaders are also planning to visit other community colleges that have made significant headway in green technology and sustainability to learn strategies on implementing sustainability programs and to build on best practices.