ACCESS AND GROWTH

As a community-based institution, the district strives to be responsive to the growing communities of the Greater Sacramento region. To meet the challenges of population growth, we pursue new delivery approaches to provide a high level of access to education. We also provide comprehensive support services to assure access by reducing or eliminating significant barriers and by promoting diversity. We are committed to ensuring that students from a wide variety of backgrounds have an equal chance to achieve their educational goals.

BACKGROUND AND EVIDENCE

The following findings provide an overview of the issues and challenges facing the district related to access and growth.

STUDENT SATISFACTION SURVEY

Findings from the student survey presented on pages 8 and 9 indicate concerns related to access and growth. In particular, the “performance gaps” related to the amount and safety of parking and the convenience of class schedules suggest areas where improvements will promote expanded access.

External Scan

The external scan of growth trends indicates:

- Very strong population growth in the next 20 years (population is expected to double by 2020).
- Projected growth especially high in Folsom Lake Campus and Cosumnes River College service areas.
- Individual communities expected to show strong growth include Natomas, West Sacramento, Elk Grove and Rancho Cordova.
- Regional population will continue to become increasingly ethnically diverse.
- Difficulty in recruiting staff due to cost of housing.
Internal Scan

The internal scan of the district environment indicates:

- Extensive employee recruitment needed due to growth and expected retirements of faculty, staff and administrators.
- Greater diversity expected at LRCCD colleges, particularly among first-time freshmen.

College Affinity Focus Groups

Key findings from the affinity groups include:

- Interest in accommodating growth by enhancing capacity both at main campuses and at off-site locations.
- Interest in maintaining access to student services and the college experience in a context of growth.
- Concern about the closure or unavailability of classes.
- Interest in promoting diversity and cultural competency.
- Interest in enhancing processes for managing and coordinating program growth across the district.
ACCESS AND GROWTH
STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

To respond to the findings listed above, the district will pursue the following strategic directions (not listed in priority order):

1. Enhance and increase on-campus facilities to meet growth and provide access.

2. Develop off-campus educational delivery sites and centers in high-growth areas to meet enrollment demand and as gateways to the colleges’ main campuses.

3. Continue the development of Folsom Lake College as a comprehensive community college.

4. Promote community responsiveness by:
   - Recruiting faculty and staff who reflect the community’s diversity; and
   - Providing instruction and services that meet the needs of the community’s diversity.

5. Increase class-scheduling options to enable students to meet the multiple demands of work, family and school without diminishing learning effectiveness.

6. Increase the use of quality distance learning in an educationally sound manner to enhance accessibility and convenience and to accommodate growing enrollments.

7. Create an institution that values the people who work there, understands the community in which it operates, and embraces its students as valuable members of that community (this is sometimes referred to as “cultural competence”).

8. Improve the registration and enrollment processes, including simple and efficient processes for students entering into and transferring among our colleges and centers.

9. Enhance the use of all types of partnerships, internal and external, to increase resource availability and accommodate growth.