TEACHING AND LEARNING EFFECTIVENESS

We are committed to providing the highest quality instructional programs in transfer, vocational and general education, using the best of current or emerging instructional methods and technologies. The district promotes flexible teaching and learning methods to support the success of its diverse student population.

BACKGROUND AND EVIDENCE

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

Student Satisfaction Survey

The district administered the Noel-Levitz survey, a student satisfaction questionnaire that has been conducted throughout the US at colleges and universities. The survey asks students to rate the importance of a range of college experiences and how satisfied they are with each experience. The survey revealed both areas of strength and opportunities for further study and improvement:

Areas of Strength

Areas of high student satisfaction included:

• Students are able to experience intellectual growth.
• Faculty are usually available after class and during office hours.
• Nearly all faculty are knowledgeable in fields.
• Computer labs are adequate and accessible.

Areas of Opportunity

Areas where there was a gap between students’ rating of the importance of a topic and their level of satisfaction with it included:

• This school does whatever it can to help me reach my educational goals.
College Affinity Focus Groups

Key findings from the affinity groups include:

• Interest in ongoing professional development to ensure learning and teaching methods match student needs.

• Need for tools and support to assess the effectiveness of alternative learning modes.

• Continuing need to provide a variety of learning options to meet the learning needs and expectations of students.

• Need to develop a faculty reflecting the diversity of our students and to build the cultural competency of the district’s employees.
TEACHING AND LEARNING EFFECTIVENESS STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

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

1. Continue to develop and implement innovative teaching and learning approaches to meet the diversity of student learning needs.
   - Develop assessment tools that gauge student’s learning styles to facilitate the development of appropriate pedagogical approaches and to provide students with the feedback they need to succeed.
   - Assess the effectiveness of pedagogies.
   - Promote professional development on effective pedagogies.
   - Identify and disseminate best practices.

2. Continue to incorporate and support educational technologies in the learning process, where appropriate, both inside and outside the classroom.

3. Ensure that curriculum content is continually updated to meet changing student and community needs.

4. Apply a strategic approach to on-line course offerings and ensure quality instruction.

5. Expand and foster interdisciplinary learning communities.