The progress we have made in achieving many of our strategic plan’s stated objectives is truly remarkable. In spite of difficult budget cuts and a nearly two-year focus on accreditation, we have not been distracted from our work to improve student success; enhance teaching and learning effectiveness; increase access and growth; promote community, economic and workforce development; and extend organizational effectiveness.

Our plan, published in 2006, is now at its halfway mark; a good time to assess how far we have come and what is left to do.

This progress report is not definitive as it only covers the major programs, services, functions and events that have acted to promote our goals. I know as you read it, you will think of many more things that have occurred in your department, office or service area that also have served to move us forward.

Any plan, no matter how big or small, is only as good as the people responsible for implementing it. We have made remarkable progress because we have remarkable people working across our colleges and district.

Thank you for getting us this far and for all you will do to get us even further.

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Good organizations are constantly working to become better organizations. The 2006 Strategic Plan laid out areas where our district and colleges could improve including enhancing the institutional capacity for diversity, integrating technology in planning, streamlining business and human resource processes, promoting the health and safety of the district and college communities, and increasing grant funding. Much has been done in these areas. Below are just a few of our accomplishments to date.

- In Spring of 2008 we administered an Employee Satisfaction Survey; the responses to which influenced planning in several areas, and confirmed how positively people feel about our organization.
- Demographic research comparing the diversity of our student body and employees with the diversity of the community we serve shows that our student body fairly well mirrors our community and that the district has come a long way in diversifying faculty and staff.
- In the area of technology, the District’s Information Technology unit has implemented: Desire2Learn course management system; Version 9 of PeopleSoft; single sign-on function for students and employees; degree/audit function in PeopleSoft.
- Human Resources developed an online application process that streamlines the process for candidates and makes it easier for interview committees to screen applicants and complete their work more quickly.
- In the area of health and safety, we have: Created a catastrophic leave program for employees; created an employees assistance program; provided crisis and disaster preparedness training throughout the district; provided NEMS/SEMS employee training and certification; and undertook a district wide study of custodial work which led to a number of improvements.
Much has been done to improve all aspects of student success; from improving curricula and developing student learning outcomes to increasing student engagement and enhancing student services. Below are a few examples of what we have done to improve student success.

- All colleges have implemented the Basic Skills Initiative and the district’s Office of Institutional Research has continued cohort study of first-time freshman.
- District Information Technology is implementing the Degree Audit function in PeopleSoft which allows students to better track their progress toward completing a degree and provides counselors with more complete and immediate information regarding student success.
- To enhance student engagement and student learning ARC created “The Spot;” CRC created the “Freshman Seminar” for which it earned a statewide award; FLC began a “Freshman Orientation;” and SCC developed the “Let Us Help You” project for the beginning of each semester.
- Faculty at all four campuses have developed SLO’s for programs and courses.
- Multi-cultural training opportunities have been provided to employees by all four colleges and the district office. In Spring 2009, SCC received the John W. Rice Award for its Cultural Democracy program.
Recognizing that teaching and learning is the core of our mission, our colleges and district have continued to make improvements in the teaching and learning environments and in making available the data and services faculty need to teach effectively. Below are a few of the accomplishments we have achieved.

- Implementation of a new course management system, Desire2Learn, which allows faculty to better communicate with students and manage course content.
- Enhancement of the Socrates curriculum management system.
- Development of the Degree Audit function in PeopleSoft.
- Implementation of the Basic Skills Initiative and continued monitoring of first-time freshmen students through the Education Initiative.
- The district’s Office of Institutional Research has undertaken a large study of distance education students to determine who they are, how well they are succeeding, and what can be done to improve student success in the distance education environment.
- ARC has developed a distance education planning document and its Distance Education Substantive Change proposal was approved by the Accrediting Commission (WASC).
- The district wide program placement committee has worked to place more than 117 new degree and certificate programs throughout the district.
- The district’s Office of Institutional Research has continued to provide faculty with important information learned through program follow-up research that studies former students of various programs to determine how well they were prepared for the world of work.

As we have expanded programs and facilities, built new educational centers, and offered students greater access to our colleges through services as the Universal Transit Pass, enrollment has increased at a rapid pace. From Fall 2004 to Fall 2008, enrollment grew by more than 18,000 students—a 26% increase. Here are a few of the things we have done to increase access to our colleges.

- We created the Educational Centers Concept. The Natomas Center opened in 2005, the West Sacramento Center is scheduled for completion this December, the Davis Center will soon be under construction, land has been purchased for the Elk Grove Center and negotiations are underway to purchase land for the Rancho Cordova Center.
- We passed a local $457 million facility bond measure in November 2008. This along with the $265 million bond measure approved by voters in 2002 has allowed the district to add nearly one million additional square feet of facilities at our colleges and to modernize another 173,322 square feet of facilities.
- We implemented a financial aid awareness campaign that significantly increased the number of students receiving financial aid.
- The Los Rios Foundation implemented a Student Emergency Fund to help students meet emergency financial obligations so they can remain in college.
- ARC and SCC created partnerships with Center Unified and West Sacramento Unified School Districts to establish Early College High Schools in underserved areas.
- We implemented Version 9 of the PeopleSoft student system significantly enhancing the registration process for students.