

# PIE Narrative Summary



## PIE - Arts - CEA: Photography Unit

**2021-22**

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**Summary of Notable Achievements:** • Transitioned back on campus after 3 Semesters and 3 Intersessions online

- Part of the initial Essential Services Programs back on campus prior to the general return
- Articulation Agreements with local High Schools
- Participation in virtual Media Arts Festival
- Reorganization of Issue Room following successful Remodel
- Participation in Arts Division Return to Campus Workgroup
- Funded by the Federal Perkins Grant for \$160,000 total
- Received three large donations – Canvas and other backgrounds from Yary Studios, 16 Beseler Enlargers from Cal Poly Pomona, and grip equipment from Team Perian Media
- Initial program and curriculum agreements formed with Agriculture, GIS, Athletics, etc
- Faculty Chris Benoe and Michelle Shear of the Dance Department worked with students in both programs to create a visual dance calendar
- Faculty Jay Morgan worked with Theater faculty Christine Cummings to photograph the Children's Theater group for additional marketing materials
- Jason Perez continued work with the Mt SAC Farm, scanning and mapping the farm and agricultural areas to help further plans and developments
- Concentrated effort reaching out across campus developing work experience opportunities for students to create professional level content for students and program needs: athletics, music, dance, theater, business
- Three classrooms of computers were funded; this will directly impact students success as the former units were no longer capable of keeping up with students processing and workflows

**Program Planning for Retention and Success:** • Further development of the Drone Program: expanding to include agricultural drone applications and more in depth film and production drone use. This goes beyond the current standard mapping and imaging of the Drone program. This will be a much larger financial commitment, but will follow the industry trends and better prepare students for work in the field. This will also have a big impact on learning support; how do we better support students learning on equipment where oversight and supervision is necessary during the learning process.

• **New development of a Content Creator program: moving toward content creation and social media management, photography needs to adapt to the quickly changing markets. This will impact our relationships with other Programs that have similar trends in their industries. This will necessitate our inclusion of courses in other Programs in the program planning and requirements.**

• New DHH Cohort classes: working the DHH Office to create a course solely for DHH students and tailor the assignments and curriculums to their learning styles. This will be a great opportunity to reach out to a new field of students in Photography.

• Updating and reorganizing Photography: assessing the current program and all its courses to better fit the industry.

**Program Planning for Equity:** • Need to support students with financial need: continue to allow students to check out equipment and gear to complete their projects. Work with students to better understand what services are available to them on campus.

• Assist with completions: students who complete their educational goals, either certificates or a Photo degree, but never follow through with the paperwork to finalize the completion. Work with counseling liaison to help them complete the process, and better understand the requirements.

**External and Internal Conditions Analysis:** External

• Covid recovery: The program is struggling with low enrollment, or students who are not personally ready to return to a full school commitment. Have students with low engagement, or whose life situations take over the semester, resulting in them dropping their courses. We can support and adapt to these situations, but it seems to be a waiting game.

#### Internal

- Struggle to keep students engaged: Students who became used to engaging their online courses at their own pace and in their own time, are now struggling with being back on campus and on a set schedule. They often do not show up, leave early, or choose which days are more important to attend. Faculty struggle to have involved discussions and critiques with students.
- Support staff: with two Lab Tech resignations, support staff struggle to maintain the facility and equipment for the entire program including daytime and nighttime courses. Hiring for these two positions will start soon, and the program will be better prepared to support the Fall Semester.
- Online student support: the Program continues to support students working from home, offering equipment checkouts and returns that last the entire semester so they can complete their required assignments

**Critical Decisions Made by Unit:** • Focused efforts to create industry ties and internships: The Program faculty are working diligently to make connections with industry representatives and active business owners to get student opportunities. After the difficulties of Covid, getting our students employed and actively working in the field is so important.

- Drone flight groups on campus: Faculty Jay Perez has created drone flight groups, groupings of students who can work together to create content on campus for various applications. This will set a precedent and have groupings prepared for when outside requests come in for local drone work done by students. This will add to students experience and logged flight time.
- **Content Creator direction: After two years of Advisory Committee approval of this direction, the Program continues to work on the creation of a Content Creator program and certificates to address the changes in the industry. As Photography adapts to the rise of social media, we see the need for students to have a more varied knowledge of media. This decision was a direct result of analyzing business needs and preparing students for that.**
- Renewed efforts in the Drone courses: Recent agreements with the Agriculture Program at Mt SAC has resulted in greater opportunities for Photo students to work in another niche of drone imaging. Drones in agriculture are growing exponentially, and the need for imaging services creates great practice and employment opportunities.

**Contributors to the Report:** Christopher Benoe, Jason Perez, Jay Morgan, Terah Williams