



Agenda Item Details

Meeting	Mar 08, 2023 - Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Category	8. REPORTS
Subject	8.13 Informational Report - School of Continuing Education Community Needs Update
Type	Information

School of Continuing Education Community Needs Update Dr. Tami Pearson and Debbie Wong March 8, 2023

BACKGROUND

The School of Continuing Education (SCE) is committed to providing noncredit education and services, community and fee-based education, and contract education to underrepresented populations in our community and statewide. Mt. SAC's SCE programs offered are: Adults with Disabilities (AWD), Adult Basic Education (ABE), Citizenship, English as a Second Language (ESL), Vocational ESL (VESL), Education for Older Adults (EOA), High School (HS) Diploma and Equivalency, Short-term Vocational (STV), and Vocational Re-entry (VRE). Community and fee-based programs include Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid, computer-based testing, make-up artistry, medical insurance billing, motorcycle training, and water technology. SCE has emerged and settled into a post-pandemic era with a growing demand for in-person classes, but still heavy enrollment for online courses.

ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT

SCE staff returned to campus on July 1, 2021, to continue serving large numbers of diverse students. SCE remains the largest community college noncredit program in the state system. In 2021-22, there were 41,066 unduplicated noncredit students who attended SCE programs, which is an increase of over 15,000 students from 2020-21. With over 7,900 noncredit Full-Time Equivalent Students (FTES) generated in 2021-22, this an increase of over 900 FTES from 2020-21 and 300 less than our largest year, 2019-20. And last year, there were 4,758 enrolled into Community and Contract Education courses and programs.

Nineteen percent of adults in the Mt. SAC region lack a high school diploma or equivalency. Offering courses both in-person and online afforded students the flexibility to take courses when convenient. Last year, approximately 45%-55% of SCE courses were offered online. The online modality has led to significant growth in the high school and secondary education programs. In 2021-22, ABE helped 103 students earn a high school diploma or equivalency certificate.

To meet the needs of those in the Mt. SAC service area who speak English less than "very well," the ESL program continues to offer both ESL and VESL programs. Post-pandemic, ESL headcount has continued to climb and was at 3,680 for 2021-22, which is an increase of 1,500 from 2020-21. Ongoing outreach to immigrant students to get them back in classes, both in person and online, is crucial to the success in the community. The current year's VESL numbers have now surpassed the pre-pandemic numbers and continue to increase.

DEISAA work is critical to both the College and the communities we serve. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (2020), the two largest ethnic groups within the Mt. SAC service area are Hispanic (56.0%) and Asian (21.6%), mirroring the student demographics for Mt. SAC. The SCE Equity Leadership Workgroup conducted "equity walks," last year to identify how departments are communicating with students. The group shared findings with departments and encouraged them to identify improvements in their intake and service practices to improve the student experience. Other notable efforts to support DEISAA work was the EOA program's Ageism event, which was held campus-wide and involved programs across the College and was very successful. The Language Learning Center (LLC) scheduled events, such as "The Talks," small group discussions that focused on equity themes and promoted English fluency, and a Juneteenth event to introduce the holiday and its historical significance.

To assist noncredit students who otherwise would not be able to take an online course and encourage retention, students were given access to both laptops and hotspots through the College-wide Technology Loaner Program. This has become an ongoing support given that of more than 4,100 courses (45%) are offered online. In 2021-22, SCE provided over 650 devices (laptops and hotspots) to noncredit students. The SCE Student Online Support Team (SCE SOS), continues to support students via Zoom and email. SCE SOS offers live, one-on-one assistance to noncredit students who need help with technology. Students primarily request help with accessing and navigating the Mt. SAC Portal, Canvas, and Zoom. In 2021-22, the SCE SOS Team answered over 2,000 inquiries.

The poverty rate in some cities within the Mt. SAC district exceed the national average, at 17.3% for Pomona and 23.9% for La Puente. SCE hired a Basic Needs Technical Expert to assist noncredit students experiencing food insecurity, housing instability, and other emergency/crisis situations. Last year, noncredit students who faced basic needs challenges were able to apply for CARES/HEERF grants ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 to support retention. These resources helped over 1,400 noncredit students.

To better serve community needs for employment, as 4.7% of the Mt. SAC community population is unemployed, SCE faculty continue to offer new programs and support students' career goals. The newest STV program, Pharmacy Tech, was first offered in Fall 2022. The first cohort was full at 30 students, as are the two following cohorts. Students in Pharmacy Tech now have an opportunity to become apprentices in pharmacies in the San Gabriel Valley due to the partnerships that the new Apprenticeships Special Projects Manager and faculty have developed.

Resuming in-person instruction has steadily increased community demand for a number of our fee-based programs, specifically Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid, medical insurance billing, motorcycle training, and notary. In 2021-22 community and contract education served over 4,758 students and test participants, demonstrating a 271% increase from the previous year. The demand for upskilling the local economic workforce has also increased. In 2021-22, Contract Education reestablished the partnership with Metropolitan Water District's Apprenticeship Program to provide welding and machining instruction to apprentices. Contract Education was also awarded a \$583,950 Employment Training Panel (ETP) contract to train over 685 incumbent workers with 14 partner employers in the local region, a 65% increase in State funding. The funding increase allows the department to provide over 25,000 training hours, and the department will fully execute the contracted amount by the end of 2022.

Some of the more recent student and program outcomes continue to demonstrate SCE's impact on the community, the College, statewide, and beyond:

- The new SCE Noncredit Engagement Special Projects Manager continues to lead coordinated campaigns to recruit new students and reconnect those who stopped attending during the pandemic. Outreach efforts played an important part of the enrollment growth generated in 2021-22.
- SCE programs awarded 1,435 State Chancellor's Career Development and College Preparation certificates to noncredit students.
- STV's was awarded the Re-Thinking Adult Education Grant for \$100,000. This was one of only four programs in the nation to receive the grant. SCE also received federal earmarked Community Funding in the amount of \$500,000 to establish an apprenticeship program.
- The AWD/IMPACT program was named an Exemplary Program by the State Academic Senate and awarded \$4,000 to use for AWD students. This accomplishment was honored by the California Community Colleges Board of Governors.
- College for Kids resumed in-person instruction in Summer 2022, with an increase of 119 students when compared to Summer 2021.