



Mt. San Antonio College
Continuing Education Division
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Hello Colleagues,

Just one year ago, we were celebrating several positive signs of turnaround for noncredit throughout the state. As we start this fall semester, our outlook appears even stronger.

The state remains supportive of regional planning efforts between community college noncredit programs and K-12 adult education in the program areas identified by AB86 legislation. These are: adult basic education / adult secondary education, courses and programs for immigrants, courses and programs for adults with substantial disabilities, short-term vocational programs, and programs for apprentices. Locally, the Mt. SAC Adult Education Regional Consortium comprises 8 active school districts and ourselves. Our local program teams and steering committee have submitted our “plan-to-date,” per AB86 grant requirements, and our work continues on schedule. I invite you to visit our local website for more information; see <https://sites.google.com/site/mtsacrcae/>.

Additionally, the state budget trailer bill for 14-15 includes a raise in apportionment rate for Career Development & College Preparation (“CDCP,” or enhanced noncredit programs of ABE/ASE, ESL, and Short-Term Vocational programs). This raise, which will go into effect starting in 15-16, equalizes the CDCP net apportionment rate to that of credit. Although Mt. SAC has always been supportive of Continuing Education, this increase at the state level should help support noncredit options for students statewide and add to the stability of our system as a whole.

Another positive sign is that a state task group is now meeting to determine an appropriate noncredit funding formula to align with the new Student Success and Support Program (formerly known, in modified form, as Matriculation). Our hope is that this will lead to a restoration of significant funding for noncredit student support that was cut during the recession.

Here at Mt. SAC Continuing Education, we are actually involved in two accreditation processes. The college as a whole is engaging in its fresh self-study process for ACCJC, and you will hear more about that from a variety of college sources. Additionally, as a division, we are in the third year of our WASC-ACS accreditation cycle and are in process of writing our Mid-Cycle Report. We will submit this report at the end of the fall semester, and we anticipate a one-day visit in March. We will distribute drafts of our Mid-Cycle Report and ask for your input later this semester.

These are all good things to celebrate. However, celebration is always more real when we connect our work to actual students. So let me close with some feedback from our students from the past spring.

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“Just want to send you a quick message to say how much I appreciate your class! I know it must be frustrating at times having someone like me in class with no experience. Things that are second nature to everyone else are Greek to me! I see my progress and although it may seem like I

don't like being stretched, at the time it feels uncomfortable, but I know I keep moving and learning! You are a great teacher! I am learning how to be a student again!”

(Note to faculty member Ray Tucker, Education for Older Adults and Short-Term Vocational Programs)

“I am a 56 years old, disabled Army Veteran, who after 35 years with no schooling, decided to use my Chapter 31 (education benefits) to enroll at Mt.SAC. During my first day, I was having a difficult time getting acquainted with the program, and began to wonder if I had "what it takes" to be a college student. I enrolled into the Adult Education dept., where I was blessed to meet Mrs. Renu Katoch, an Educational Advisor. She assisted me with choosing the classes I needed to start my Alcohol & Drug Certificate program. She guided me in constructing an Education Plan and has helped me with my registration, every semester since. Whenever I have a problem or question, I can visit or call her. I am currently on my 10th & 11th classes in the A/D program. My GPA at this time is 3.5. I am positive that if I had not met Ms. Renu, I would have walked off the campus and changed my mind about furthering my education. ... I will never forget all the time and effort that she has invested in me, and the BIG part that she played in the betterment of my life and future.”

These kinds of affirmation could be repeated throughout our division. We have wonderful faculty and staff who care about students and strive to help them reach their potential. Thank you for the role you play in changing lives.

Cordially,

Donna Burns, Dean
Continuing Education

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