

**Please describe the current or planned ways that your College Promise team engages with each other in planning, implementing, and improving the program. Please describe the type and frequency of engagement. (3000 characters or less)**

College Promise team members are active on the Pomona Regional Learning Collaborative, a group of educational, community, and civic leaders focused on enhancing educational success for the youth of Pomona. Subcommittees meet regularly as they work to create a shared vision and develop a strategic plan for their work.

Mt. SAC's High School Outreach program works closely with local high schools to help in-district graduating high school seniors successfully transition to college. The team conducts general college and specialized presentations, application workshops, placement tests, and other events at local high schools. High School Outreach also provides campus tours, Connect 4, Seniors' Day, High School Educators' Conference, and registration assistance during the first week of fall and spring terms. Mt. SAC hosts annual meetings for high school principals and district administrators, high school counselors, and superintendents/school board members.

Bridge Program (freshman experience) and High School Outreach integrate program planning to offer a comprehensive pathway for high school students to seamlessly enroll at the college. Mt. SAC administrators, faculty, and staff meet monthly to coordinate, implement, evaluate, and measure effectiveness of Connect 4, Cash for College, and Bridge.

Connect 4, which is a collaboration between High School Outreach and Counseling, assists in-district graduating high school seniors in transitioning to Mt. SAC. Students who complete the four steps (applications, assessment, new student orientation, priority registration) with a High School Outreach specialist receive early registration in the fall. Connect 4 serves just under 3,000 high school seniors annually.

Cash for College targets high school seniors and/or parents and current and prospective Mt. SAC students. The Financial Aid team assists students with completion of the financial aid application (FAFSA) and the California Dream Act application, which enables them to have enrollment fees waived and to receive financial aid disbursements the week prior to the start of the term.

Bridge, which provides a freshman experience learning community structure, free textbooks, BOGW eligibility, priority registration, and educational plan development, among other services, engages student services and academic departments across campus to improve student outcomes. This also includes collaboration with the Research & Institutional Effectiveness office to track participants and monitor individual progress as well as the program's effectiveness in improving student outcomes overall and closing equity gaps, as evidenced by a longitudinal cohort study of Summer Bridge.

In recent years, the college has moved toward an integrated planning process and a strong focus on data-based decision making and continuous improvement through its annual program review process. All departments participate in the annual program review and collaborate on integrated planning.

**List all student services/academic support elements in your College Promise program. For each element listed: (1) briefly describe the element; (2) indicate where it is implemented (K-12, CC, 4-year, NGO, etc.); (3) indicate whether it is a formal part of the Promise program or an existing**

tutoring, study groups, textbooks, priority registration, and educational plan development. The Bridge Program serves low-income, first-generation college students and students placing at lower levels in math and English. During the summer, Bridge students' retention rate averages 99%, with overall course success rates averaging between 93% and 95% and persistence from summer to fall terms averaging between 97% and 98%. When comparing Bridge students with non-Bridge students who matriculate from the same graduating class, data show that Bridge students have higher first-time pass rates in math (71%) and English (78%) than non-Bridge students. Additionally, Bridge students' persistence rates were also higher for fall to spring (89%) and fall to fall (80%). They also had higher freshman year GPAs than non-Bridge students. Bridge student survey data reveal that upon completing Summer Bridge, students feel more prepared academically and have increased self-confidence as they begin college.

Juniors' Day/High School Outreach: Mt. SAC staff are assigned to regularly visit (weekly) all PUSD high schools. Juniors' Day provides 11<sup>th</sup> graders motivation and direction to complete high school and plan for enrollment in college with a focus on their particular career and major area of interest. Program evaluations by both students and counselors show that after attending the event, 86% of attendees had an increased awareness of their college options after high school graduation, 91% were more aware of the student services available to them, 74% were more aware of the academic programs at Mt. SAC, and 83% indicated that they are likely to attend Mt. SAC after high school graduation.

Connect 4: All PUSD students receive critical information and pathways to enrolling at Mt. SAC, including completion of financial aid applications, priority registration, assessment assistance, new student orientation, counseling, and development of educational plans. Among students participating in Connect 4, 83% registered for the fall semester, compared to only 25% of students not participating in Connect 4. Additionally, 62% of Connect 4 students enrolled as full-time students compared to only 49% of non-Connect 4 students.

Financial Support: Mt. SAC recruits all PUSD students to participate in the Cash for College program, which assists students in completing the FAFSA and California Dream Act applications, qualifying for scholarships, receiving free transportation, and receiving free textbooks through participation in Bridge (Freshman Experience). Additionally, students receive student success kits (free backpacks with school supplies, flash drives, and educational aids).

**Please list and describe up to four specific ways in which you would like the student services and academic support elements of your College Promise program to improve. Please also indicate which student population(s) will be most affected by the improvement. (3000 characters or less)**

Multiple Measures Placement: Beginning in Summer 2018 (high school graduating class of 2018), Mt. SAC will begin placing students based on high school GPA, high school courses completed and grades in those courses, rather than traditional assessment testing. Meetings between high school principals, counselors, English and math department chairs, and college instructional and student services leaders and faculty continue to assist in this transition process. This will enhance students' ability to accelerate completion of their educational goals. Data show that low-income, first-generation college students will benefit most significantly from this improvement.

Freshman and Sophomore Outreach: Mt. SAC wants to expand college awareness and outreach efforts to PUSD students enrolled in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades. We already have in place extensive outreach to juniors and seniors but want to ensure that we reach students at the earliest possible stages in their secondary enrollment. Our plan is to host a college awareness conference at the college in which students attend a

The direct student aid support proposed in this application would only be available to students who do not otherwise qualify for similar support through our existing initiatives described throughout this application.

#### ATTACHMENTS

☒ **Promise Program Student Data**

☒ **Grant Budget**

☒ **Organization Budget**

☒ **Most Recent 990**

☒ **Board of Directors Roster**

☒ **Most Recent Audited Financials**

☒ **List of Top 3 Funders**