

February 23, 2018

Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook, Chancellor
CC: Shelley Weinstein
College of the Canyons
26455 Rockwell Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91355

Dear Chancellor Van Hook:

Santa Monica College Community College District (the “District”) is requesting technical assistance from a Partnership Resource Team (PRT) through the system-wide Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative (IEPI) for the development of a Transformative Technology Plan.

Description of areas the college is doing well

The District has been successful at being responsive in meeting the diverse technological needs of campus, employing an array of innovative technology solutions to support the optimization and effectiveness of departments and programs. A subcommittee of the District’s planning body, the Technology Planning Committee (TPC), is instrumental in ensuring that the campus’ technology needs are met by coordinating the District’s planning technology planning efforts, reviewing the technology needs and concerns from each of the District’s academic programs, student support services, and administrative units, and setting annual objectives (goals) to meet them.

Area of focus for PRT assistance and rationale

While immediately responsive, the annual technology planning process does not provide opportunity for comprehensive and strategic planning activities to help the District plan ahead for the long term. The District’s last multi-year strategic technology plan was produced in 1996. Since then, the District has adopted an annual plan with annual objectives for technology. The current process has led to quick solutions that have resulted in unintended consequences (for example, systems that don’t “talk” to each other or redundancy) and lack of integration and alignment between technological solutions and systems. In addition, the “respond-as-you-go” process has led to challenges in budget planning activities for technology as a whole.

As a result, the District seeks to integrate all of the technology needs and efforts through the development of a Transformative Technology Plan. The plan was identified as an action project in the District’s 2016 Accreditation Self-evaluation Report Quality Focus Essay as one area the District might continue to improve its institutional effectiveness.

We envision that the plan will provide a framework for and guide the District’s efforts in prioritizing the effective use of technology on campus, addressing the technology needs of the District’s strategic initiatives and grants (for example, the Guided Pathways redesign efforts and SSSP), and more explicitly linking technology planning with the budget and resource allocation process.

The District seeks assistance from a PRT to review its current technology planning processes, conduct a comprehensive inventory and assessment of all of our technology systems, and ultimately identify practices and solutions to develop an integrated and transformative technology plan.

Ideal time for first visit

An ideal time for the visit would be during the Spring 2018 semester in order to meet the deadline for the Accreditation Midterm Report (Fall 2019). Additionally, the work to begin the development of a Transformative Technology Plan will address one of the District's annual objectives of the 2017-2018 Master Plan for Education related to technology planning.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathryn E. Jeffery, Ph.D.
Superintendent-President