



April 27, 2017

Dear SMC Colleagues:

We are in the second half of the Spring semester: congratulations to all of us! Our Santa Monica College community maintains such a positive learning atmosphere for students. Thank you for your passion and continued dedication.

This update summarizes the outcome of the meetings held in April 17-19 of the Strategic Planning Task Force, the Student Success/Equity Workgroup and the Integrated Planning Workgroup—which are composed of faculty, classified staff, administrators, and students. The two workgroups identified specific recommendations—in the areas they had been tasked to carefully study, based on extensive College data that they presented to the Strategic Planning Task Force. The Strategic Planning Task Force considered these recommendations along with other materials to inform [a set of draft “strategic initiatives”](#). These Strategic Initiatives will provide SMC a roadmap for the next five years, a set of guiding principles and priorities that will determine how we best maximize resources while ensuring that we provide access to *all* the students whose lives can be drastically transformed by an education—and, even more importantly, success in their educational goal: transfer, career and basic skills—at Santa Monica College. [Click here to review the draft strategic initiatives](#)—note that the bullet points of objectives or “actionable” items under each initiative are not exhaustive by any means, but provide some initial steps that will help achieve the stated initiative.

Once you have reviewed these draft initiatives, [please click here to send in any comments or feedback you may have](#). Your opinion matters—tell us what you think. The deadline for responses is **Friday, May 12**.

In addition to the recommendations of the workgroups mentioned earlier, the Strategic Planning Task Force [considered an extensive “data portfolio for strategic planning”](#) compiled by the Collaborative Brain Trust—including information and quantitative data they collected from you (the internal college community), students, and community stakeholders during the “listening sessions” and open forums conducted from March 6-8 *and* the results of the campus-wide survey—with assistance and data from the SMC Institutional Research Department. This data portfolio has information I believe may be useful and of interest to you. Among many other things, it includes data on the students served at SMC, the College’s success rate in transfer and degree completion, fiscal/budget information, results of the student and employee satisfaction campus-wide survey conducted in late February-early March, and planning implications (a set of points laying out how the data compiled will inform planning discussions at the College). [Click here to view the complete data portfolio.](#)

What’s Next?

The Board of Trustees will hold a study session on May 16 to provide their input on the initiatives. On May 24, the Strategic Planning Task Force will meet to review the feedback and finalize the strategic initiatives. CBT will submit its final report to me by June 30.

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Colleagues, thank you again to everyone who participated in the campus-wide survey. The responses received were exemplary—both in quality and quantity and for the contribution they represent to this important process. Santa Monica College’s future depends on each of us. Thoughtfully and strategically, we will move SMC towards an even brighter future.

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