

UPDATE ON SYSTEM STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL IMPLEMENTATION

6.2

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

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Issue

This item provides the Board of Governors with an update on implementation of the System Strategic Plan. At a recent Board meeting, the Board asked that updates focus on a part of the plan rather than a comprehensive update. This update focuses on economic and workforce development.

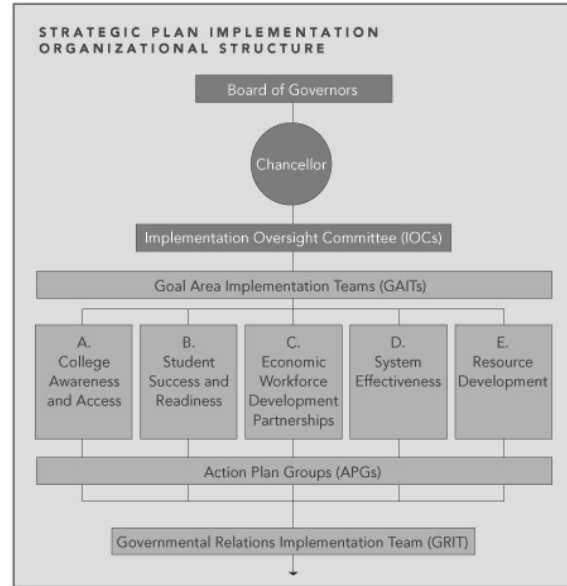
Background

At the direction of the Board, the Chancellor's Office began a comprehensive strategic planning process in 2005 with the purpose of improving student access and success and serving employers and employees through partnerships for economic and workforce development. Career training geared toward students who are seeking to learn a trade or skill has long been a mission of the community colleges. With high growth and emerging fields as the backbone of California's economy, a skilled labor pool is necessary to meet employer needs and ensure California's long-term economic vitality. Through their workforce training programs, the colleges play a critical role in the state's economic development efforts.

The Board of Governors on January 17, 2006, adopted the final draft of the System Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan outlines five Strategic Goal Areas and corresponding strategies; the implementation process is the fulfillment of those strategies.

An Implementation Oversight Committee (IOC), comprised of representatives of a wide range of internal constituencies of the California Community Colleges, along with and external stakeholders and partners, including other segments of education, labor, business, industry and State government, was formed to oversee the implementation process for the Strategic Plan.

An organizational chart for implementation of the five Goal Areas is displayed at right. The Goals Area Implementation Teams (GAITs) provided detailed courses of action to the Action Plan Groups (APGs), which were established to carry-out the strategies developed by the GAITs. Further information on Strategic Plan Implementation can be found at <http://strategicplan.cccco.edu>.



Update on Strategies Related to Economic and Workforce Development

The APG for **Goal B-7, Innovative Practices in Workforce Education**, identified and created a repository of community college model innovative practices programs in career and workforce education. A website is being developed to provide continuous access to these model programs and services. The Workplace Learning Initiative is working in collaboration with the Centers of Excellence to document “work-readiness” as determined by employers statewide. This study will provide information regarding the perceived skill gaps in California’s workforce, allowing community colleges to focus career and workforce education and training efforts on those gaps.

The APG for **Goal C1, Coordination of Statewide Workforce Programs and Policies**, actively pursued partnerships at the state level. As a result, the Chancellor’s Office is partnering with a number of state agencies in the planning and implementation of projects through its service provider network of local community colleges to increase and retool career technical and workforce education programs. These partnerships will also support community colleges delivery of education and training services. One partnership with the Department of Transportation (Caltrans), for procurement assistance training for small business is underway. A collaboration with the Energy Commission to develop curriculum and train workers for employment in energy efficiency related competencies is in development. The Chancellor’s Office has also executed an Interagency Agreement (IA) with the California Conservation Corps to assist in development of their career academy and technical training.

The Action Plan Group for **Goal C1.2, Coordination of Statewide Workforce Programs and Policies: Customized Training, Small Business and Incumbent Workers**, developed a plan to serve small businesses and incumbent workers through newly-developed, employer oriented,

services to insure access to a workforce with high levels of basic skills, the ability to adapt quickly to changing and/or more complex technology and 21st Century productivity demands. A new \$6 million worker training fund is part of this effort, as well as alignment of contract education, career education, and non-credit efforts to better serve the needs of workers. A California Corporate College collaborative will pilot a statewide model for contract education services to employers requesting a single point of contact and standardized education and training services for their employees statewide. Small Business Development Centers developed a Youth Entrepreneurship Training Program, and Centers for International Trade Development continue to lead California's international trade efforts by coordinating trade missions with the Governor's Office and Business Transportation and Housing. The California Community Colleges Small Business Development Initiative also co-sponsored the Governor's Small Business Conference in Fall of 2008. Steps are also being taken to revise the Responsive Training Fund to be more streamlined and flexible to respond to the current economic conditions and offer funding for retraining on a continuous basis as projects are developed.

The APG for Goal **C2, Career Pathways**, creates links between academic and career fields. They are working with colleges to match funding with opportunities for students to link with employers. Employers require a workforce with proper levels of basic skills, as well as the ability to adapt quickly to changing technology. To meet these goals, the APG is working with philanthropic funding sources to assist California's community colleges build on existing models, disseminate best practices, and develop new programs for enhancing the career pathways approach. This effort been addressed to some degree through the articulation work being done by the Career Pathways Senate Bill (SB) 70 project being led by the Academic Senate, along with a number of other SB 70 grants. More information is available on our website, www.cccco.edu.

The Action Plan Group for **Goal C4, Regional Collaboration through Multi-Agency Networks**, is implementing projects such as statewide initiatives, networks of service providers and collaborative partnerships, in and among California's 10 regions to respond to uniquely defined needs in new and emerging economic sectors or needs that are critical to developing or sustaining economic growth in a region. Relationships are being developed with WIBs, One-Stops, EDCs, and others at the regional level in support of major regional Initiatives. Funding opportunities are being explored to expand the scope of the ten Regional Consortia beyond vocational program review, to an active network of coordination and liaison with business and employers. Industry Driven Regional Collaboratives are being funded annually by the Economic Workforce Development Program to implement this strategy incorporating specific project approaches. Also, using WIA 1A funds, the Regional Consortia conducted apprenticeship orientation meetings to increase employer engagement and opportunities for apprenticeship. A new employer friendly web presence is being developed for unveiling in the Fall of 2009 to introduce regional educational and training services and products available and how to access them. Seven regional consortia collaboratives have been funded for demonstration of innovative partnership; matching funds from philanthropic partners will allow community colleges to build capacity in offerings and services for high wage, high demand sectors, contextualized basic skills or innovative new programs that accelerate adoption of new technologies in the work place.

The APG for **Goal C5, Defining and Addressing Long-Range Economic and Workforce Trends**, has ensured that the colleges have access to the tools and resources needed to track and respond to long-term economic and workforce trends. Sixty regional, multi-regional, or statewide, industry scans on high growth, economically critical industries or occupations have been published by the Centers of Excellence. The workforce needs found during environmental scanning are validated by industry providing real-time information on what is needed. The scans also provide information on which college programs already exist for that industry. This provides colleges with a snapshot of where additional programs might be needed. These reports have been used to secure additional funding through Department of Labor (DOL) grants (logistics) and Industry Driven Regional Collaboratives (IDRCs). Colleges have also used them to update, revise, or develop new courses and programs. A recent survey revealed that 57 colleges used scan findings to seek grants, of which 37 were successful. This generated over \$16 million in new funding for community colleges. Partnership events are held to bring faculty and workforce professionals together with industry to discuss solutions to the workforce needs that have been identified. One partnership event was held for faculty, staff, and industry partners to present an overview of the green economy. This information was subsequently shared and used by the newly-formed State Green Jobs Council. A recently completed research study identified eight occupations in the energy efficiency cluster that require community college training. This study, conducted in partnership with Lawrence Berkeley Labs and PG & E, is the first such study conducted that contains specific recommendations for community colleges. This information is already being used to begin and expand community college programs. The Centers of Excellence and the Advanced Transportation and Energy Initiative have developed a partnership with the California Energy Commission (CEC) that will result in an agreement with the CEC to conduct research and develop training in advanced transportation. This partnership will bring an additional \$4 million into the system through fiscal year 2009-10. Three industry studies, have been completed, in partnership with the following Initiatives: Biotechnology, Workplace Learning Resources, and the Regional Health Occupations for biotechnology, work place basic skills, and healthcare. These studies are being used by the statewide Economic Development Program Advisory Committee in the planning and direction of these Initiatives.

Conclusion

This item is provided for the Board's information. The Economic and Workforce Development unit will provide the Board with regular updates on implementation activities.