



The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

DATE: January 17-18, 2017

SUBJECT: 2016-17 Exemplary Program Award		Item Number: 3.5	
		Attachment: No	
CATEGORY:	Academic Affairs	TYPE OF BOARD CONSIDERATION:	
Recommended By:	 Pam Walker, Vice Chancellor	Consent/Routine	
		First Reading	
Approved for Consideration:	 Eloy Ortiz Oakley, Chancellor	Action	
		Information	X

ISSUE: This item announces the 2016-17 Exemplary Program Award recipients for recognition by the Board of Governors.

BACKGROUND: The *Exemplary Program Award*, sponsored annually by the Foundation for California Community Colleges, was established by the Board of Governors in 1991 to recognize outstanding community college programs. As many as two California Community College programs receive cash awards of \$4,000 and up to four programs receive honorable mention plaques. The awards are sponsored by the Foundation for California Community Colleges and provide an excellent opportunity to showcase exceptional programs. Recognizing the importance of contextualized learning to enhance student achievement, the theme for 2016–17 is “**Contextualized Teaching and Learning.**” Programs that provide innovative strategies for improving student learning through the use of contextualized pedagogy and embedded basic skills delivery relevant to the program of study were just some of the possible emphases of eligible programs.

Exemplary Program Award recipients are selected from community colleges throughout the state, with no more than two from any one Academic Senate for California Community College area. Each college may nominate one program to receive this prestigious honor. Local academic senates are encouraged to form selection committees with representatives from students, staff, administration, and faculty. At the state level, a committee that included representatives of the state administrator groups, students, and faculty evaluates the nominated programs. **(Background cont.)**

RECOMMENDATION: This item is presented to the Board for information.

(Background cont.)

This year, the Academic Senate has selected two *Exemplary Program Award* winners and two honorable mentions. These colleges are developing programs that utilize contextualized teaching and learning strategies to further student success.

The awards recognize programs that do the following:

- show evidence of the overall success of the program;
- contribute to faculty engagement;
- demonstrate a response to the needs of students, faculty, and the college;
- collaborate with other programs on campus or within the community;
- provide evidence that demonstrates how the program supports the community college mission; and
- can be used as models for other community colleges.

2016-17 AWARD WINNER

MiraCosta College - HealthStart Program

MiraCosta College was selected to receive the Exemplary Program Award for its HealthStart program. HealthStart aims to assist students, many of whom are from underrepresented communities, to successfully build skills in prerequisite courses leading to their desired careers in nursing and other health allied fields. The program has had measurable success in closing equity gaps and has increased students' access to supportive services such as Career Services, Writing Center, Counseling, and EOPS. Gains in student success have been achieved through innovative instruction of High Impact Practice of contextualized curriculum and common intellectual experiences. HealthStart intentionally collaborates between Letters, Nursing, Counseling, Careers, and CTE. The program has sustained funding through the Counseling and Nursing Departments, as well as, Student Success and Support Programs (SSSP). As a result of collaborative curricula, students are more aware and connected to the viable resources available to them on campus. Given its success, HealthStart can serve as a model paradigm for other campuses and can be applied to other CTE programs to allow students to move past barriers so that they can, as Susan C. Herrmann, Senate President of MiraCosta states, "[take] the challenging courses leading toward their careers."

Reedley College - Reedley Middle College High School

Reedley College received an Honorable Mention for addressing the needs of its community where only 15% of the local population had obtained a college degree. By creating the Reedley Middle College High School (RMCHS) on its campus, the college can provide a space for students to obtain hands-on career experience specifically in agriculture and business reflecting the needs in the local economy. Additionally, in their junior and senior years, students take a mixture of college courses to help adjust to the college classroom environment. The innovative structure of the program is achieved through supportive resources and contextualized learning that extends to support services including faculty coordinators to assist with navigating through college, counseling support, tutoring services, and the creation of a Student Education Plan. By creating a supportive environment for RMCHS students, the college has successfully partnered with programs to offer a host of events that

involve student participation and education to their community. The program has been such a success that, according to Dr. Sandra Caldwell, Reedley College President and Stephanie Curry, Senate President, the program is “expanding the pathways to add a STEM focus and building a permanent structure on our campus with the goal to enroll 100-150 students per grade.” The RMCHS seeks to increase student achievement by transitioning students from high school to college, but also advocates for students to pursue accomplished careers and ultimately reciprocate their successes by contributing back to their communities.

2016-17 HONORABLE MENTIONS

El Camino College - Educational Development Department

El Camino College earned an Honorable Mention for its Educational Development (E.D.) Programs which offer 15 courses to approximately 1,900 students who receive services from the Special Resource Center (SRC) every year. Students served by the SRC may have mobility loss, learning disabilities, hearing loss, intellectual disability, acquired brain injury, visual impairment, speech impairment, psychological disabilities and other health conditions. Some students with comorbid conditions are served under more than one category. To better serve students, the E.D. program offers 15 courses that are comprised of academics, self-regulation, decision-making, and time management, as well as, recognizing learning strengths and offering American Sign Language for students with hearing impairment. By seeking out partnerships with other campus departments, the SRC is able to utilize technology to assist with contextualized teaching and learning by including other divisions on campus that are equipped with assistive applications such as ZoomText to better engage students. The SRC also pursues programmatic outreach to high schools, the California Department of Vocation Rehabilitation, and Regional Centers. The success of contextualized practices has been a testament to past students according to El Camino College President Dena Maloney and Academic Senate President Kristie Daniel-DiGregorio stating: “Former students have returned to El Camino to comment that they would not have achieved their current professional positions had it not been for the Educational Development Coursework, combined with the support of an experienced staff.”

Sierra College - Fire Technology Program

Sierra College’s Fire Technology program earned an Honorable Mention through the use of contextualized teaching and learning to engage students while in the Fire Academy. As a result, Sierra College is one of the leading fire service and educational training locations in the state. Andrea Neptune, Academic Senate President for Sierra College, comments on the program’s growth, stating: “In just two short years, the Fire Technology program [has] seen enrollment skyrocket from just 25 applicants in Fall 2013 to nearly 100 per semester for the past two semesters.” Though there are only two full-time instructors, the program is very active in the college community with representation on various committees, task force, and regional Fire Chief and Training Officer meetings that are located in Placer and Nevada counties. By using web-based platforms and other innovative resources, instructors are able to create video lessons for all students to access at home and provide an ease of learning. The Fire Technology Program embraces its mission to identify student needs and assist with student development through continued evaluative procedures such as program review, student learning outcomes, and accreditation. The Fire Technology program at Sierra College is already well on its way to being a model curriculum through its shared resources and innovative instruction.