

VENTURACOLLEGE

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Office of the President

Monday, March 16, 2020

Dr. Dianne Van Hook, Chancellor
College of the Canyons
26455 Rockwell Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91355

Dear Dr. Van Hook,

Ventura College was the first institution of higher education in Ventura County, established in 1925. The College moved to its present location in 1955 on 112-acres in the eastern part of Ventura – so close to the ocean that there is a clear view of the Channel Islands from several spots on campus. The current student enrollment of the College for day and evening classes, including all campus sites and distance learning students, is just over 13,000. Ventura College provides classes for the Santa Clara River Valley residents at our East Campus in Santa Paula located at 957 Faulkner Road.

VC is a Title V Hispanic Serving Institution that serves a diverse population of historically underserved students. Sixty-four percent (64%) of our students are Hispanic. In addition, nearly 60% of students receive financial aid. We have worked tirelessly to ensure our students have access to classes and resources to successfully reach their goals.

Ventura College (VC) is a premier educational institution. Through a systematic planning process that places data and research at its core, we have developed and implemented a number of programs that have become models for community college excellence across California and the U.S.

We believe that success begins with planning and have set ambitious and transformative goals for the future. By 2023, we plan to be one of the top five colleges in the state on a number of key student success metrics. Further, we plan to close all equity gaps related to those metrics. These goals are described in detail in our [2017-2023 Educational Master Plan](#).

Our areas of focus for Peer Review Team (PRT) assistance include: (1) developing a comprehensive facilities master plan and (2) supporting our English, math, and ESL AB705 efforts.

(2) Facilities Master Plan:

The current [Facilities Master Plan \(FMP\)](#) was revised through campus-wide efforts in June 2018. Although the document was discussed through participatory governance processes, it was never finalized. The work to complete the 2018 FMP is occurring this spring semester. The previous FMP, was developed in 2004 with the assistance of a consulting firm, Leo A Daly. This comprehensive plan includes goals, objectives, and processes to achieve the VC Mission within the context of our community, demographics, resources, facilities, land open spaces, campus systems, and design wishes.

VC is looking for support from a PRT to assist us with developing a new comprehensive master plan to incorporate the components of previous plans with others including: [Education Master Plan](#), [Strategic Implementation Plan](#), [Technology Master Plan](#), [Equity Plan*](#), and [Guided Pathways Scale of Adoption Plan](#).

*VC Equity Plan is being revised currently. Constituency groups were dissatisfied with the quick timeline and the resulting diminished participatory governance for creating this version. The timeline is to have a new plan developed and approved by May 31, 2020.

(2) English, Math, and ESL AB705

Well before AB705, VC designed and implemented the initiative we call [Sail to Success](#) as part of our 2016 ACCJC Accreditation Quality Focus Essay. The original vision for our Sail to Success action plan has evolved over the last two years in response to changes in legislation (AB 705), the statewide adoption of the Guided Pathways Framework, and the college's implementation of new technology. These recent changes have only helped to sharpen our focus, providing us increased access to new resources.

The Sail to Success action plan has multiple components, many of which are being addressed through new program development, improved practices, and a dedication to providing improved messaging for students. VC is looking for support to assist us with developing a

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positive outreach message for English, ESL, and Math. We need better whole-college messaging related to AB705 changes and to let students know we are ready to support their success in these key areas at VC. In addition to onboarding students, the college would benefit from learning about other best practices and innovative and equity-focused approaches utilized by California community colleges' especially with ESL.

The core of this project is to support student success, equity, and completion by improving our facilities planning and AB705 implementation, which align with the Vision for Success goals of the California Community College Chancellor's Office.

Ideally, a PRT visit in the fall 2020 semester will best serve our needs as we begin the process of developing our FMP and will have completed the first full-year of AB705 implementation.

Sincerely,



Kim Hoffmans, President

Cc: Dr. Mathew Lee, Special Projects Consultant for Higher Education
Dr. Greg Gillespie, Chancellor of Ventura County Community College District