

P031C210056 Ventura County Community College District - Ventura College

Servingness: Aspiration, Identity, and Learning (S:AIL) in STEM

1. **Applicant:** Ventura College, Ventura, California

2. **Project Title:** *Servingness: Aspiration, Identity, and Learning (S:AIL) in STEM*

3. **Abstract:** Ventura College (VC) is an accredited, public, two-year California Community College located in Ventura, California, a community located approximately 60 miles north of Los Angeles and 30 miles south of Santa Barbara. Founded in 1925 as the first institution of higher education in Ventura County, VC enrolls nearly 18,000 students annually—61% of whom are Hispanic. Through this Title III Project, VC will embrace its identity as a Hispanic-*Serving* Institution by fostering an institution-wide commitment to providing a high quality, equity-minded learning environment in three domains: 1) Aspiration, 2) Identity, and 3) Learning. Ventura College faculty & staff will become stewards of VC's commitment to being a Hispanic-*Serving* Institution. They will be supported to encourage students' aspirations for STEM degree completion and transfer, honor cultural wealth and foster a sense of identity and belonging, and improve the relevance of learning in and out of the classroom.

a. **Target Population:** Hispanic and low-income students and families in the service area, including the VC East Campus population.

Services/Proposed Activities: Strategy 1: *Serving:* Aspiration–STEM Transfer Hub; Experiential & Work-Based Learning; STEM Transfer & Community Liaison Engagement Council. Strategy 2: *Serving:* Identity–Success Team Coaching*; Non-Academic Peer Mentoring & Support; Servingness Training. Strategy 3: *Serving:* Learning–STEM Harbor; Hybrid & HyFlex Course Modality Expansion; Proactive Service-Minded Academic Supports & Peer Tutoring; Comprehensive Servingness-Minded Professional Development Initiative.

b. **Anticipated Results:** A comprehensive suite of goals, objectives, and outcomes (as detailed in the Project Design Section) will work in concert with each other to chart and measure progress towards the overarching anticipated results, which include: Increased access and participation in STEM degrees/careers among underrepresented students; More equitable degree and career outcomes for Hispanic and low-income students in STEM; Increased transfer to CSU/UC STEM programs for Hispanic and low-income students in the service area, including VC East Campus.

4. **Absolute Priority Addressed:** Yes; VC's STEM Liaison Community Engagement Council will include faculty and counseling professionals from VC, CSU, and UC systems with a particular focus on CSU Channel Islands and UC Santa Barbara, the institutions to which the majority of VC students transfer. Council priorities include 1) developing a collaborative approach to increasing equitable transfer, 2) improving the transfer experience, 3) collaborative curriculum development & alignment, and 4) a model articulation agreement to support development of a clear degree roadmap, published in Program Pathways Mapper.

5. **Competitive Preference Priority Addressed:** Yes; Competitive Preference Priority 1: Fostering flexible & affordable paths to obtaining knowledge and skills by addressing gaps in the community college to university pipeline, offering high-quality experiential and work-based learning experiences, and improving feedback collection from regional partners to inform program and support design. Competitive Preference Priority 2: VC's project design incorporates elements of the ASAP model*, e.g., enhanced tutoring, counseling, and student service programs designed to improve academic success, including innovative and customized instruction courses in gateway math and English courses to retain students and accelerate program completion and transfer.

6. **Invitational Priority Addressed:** Yes; Leverage a completion coaching model and comprehensive professional development campus-wide to ensure student support for addressing the impact of COVID-19 on students' mental health and academic outcomes.

*Meets WWC "Promising Evidence" of Effectiveness Standard