



Office of the President

Friday, October 11, 2024

Dr. David Andrus, Chancellor
College of the Canyons
Santa Clarita, CA 91355

Dear Dr. Andrus,

Ventura College (VC), the first institution of higher education in Ventura County was established in 1925. The College moved to its present location in 1955 on 112-acres in the eastern part of Ventura. In addition to offering most programs at our Ventura campus, the college also offers classes and degrees focused on the needs of the residents of the Santa Clara River Valley at our East Campus (VCEC) in Santa Paula.

VC is a Hispanic Serving Institution with a diverse population of historically underserved students. Overall, 63% of our students are Hispanic/Latino, with nearly 70% receiving financial aid. During the pandemic, over 1/3 experienced food insecurity and 1/4 experienced housing insecurity. Faculty and staff work tirelessly to ensure our students have access to classes and resources to successfully reach their academic and career goals.

At VC, we believe that success begins with planning, setting ambitious and transformative goals for the future, and providing students with the resources to achieve their goals. To deliver on this promise we've identified two related areas that demand our attention: Transfer to 4-year universities and curricular transformation.

UNIVERSITY TRANSFER

During the implementation of the 2022 – 2025 Student Equity Plan (SEP), VC realized the need for intentional growth in transfer for the two most disproportionately impacted populations: 1) Men of Color, and 2) part-time students. This new equity plan calls for targeted, intentional, and race-conscious activities and interventions that support closing the equity gaps for these impacted populations at the college. VC requests PRT to assist with the exploration of ways to increase transfer and strengthen the effectiveness of the University Transfer Center.

A PRT visit in Spring 2025 will serve our needs in helping assess the UTC's current organizational capacity to serve students and its transfer-related activities. Currently, the UTC has one full-time faculty member who serves as a counselor coordinator for eight hours of reassigned time to coordinate and program activities where professional expertise is required. In analyzing organizational capacity, the PRT can support a deeper analysis of UTC's current partnerships, programmatic offerings, and other areas of efforts.

Ventura College will be a beacon of learning — a source of inspiration and guidance — for our students and community.

CURRICULAR TRANSFORMATION

A second focus is the transformation of VC's curricular processes. Faculty leaders and the Academic Affairs administration recognize curriculum as the very foundation of our equitable educational efforts. We are thus committed to streamlining our processes to increase efficiency and promote critical dialog regarding the quality, intent, and continuity of our courses and programs. The following efforts are under way:

- Curriculum committee members conducted research to develop a new process for curricular technical review that will be more efficient and collaborative
- Group technical review process as a subcommittee of the curriculum committee
- Train curriculum committee members on curriculum review processes to increase members' self-efficacy and skills and number of technical reviewers
- Improve clarity, accuracy, and currency of the catalog by identifying and addressing courses in the catalog that have not been offered over the past six years

A PRT visit in fall 2025 will help the college investigate our curricular review processes and improve our efforts to deliver timely and accurate curricular updates to our students. Six faculty members have been investing their energy in developing and implementing changes to the curricular review processes. In analyzing organizational capacity and overall committee structure and procedure, the PRT can support a deeper analysis of:

- Ways to effectively and efficiently review curricular changes and increase faculty involvement in the process
- Development of streamlined processes and procedures for curricular review as the workload will increase with the implementation of AB 928: Cal-GETC and AB 1111: Common Course Numbering
- Explore downstream processes and functions subsequent to the work of the Curriculum Committee

Sincerely,



[Claudia Lourido-Habib \(Oct 10, 2024 16:22 PDT\)](#)

Dr. Claudia Lourido-Habib, President

Cc: *Peggy Lomas, Director, Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative (IEPI)*
Dr. Rick MacLennan, Chancellor of Ventura County Community College District