

DAS President's Report to the PCCD Board of Trustees for January 22, 2013

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Thank you Mr. President, and good evening trustees, chancellor, district administration center staff, college presidents, colleagues and members of the public.

The importance of computer literacy for student success, and curriculum re-design that fully embraces educational technology have been recurring themes in my recent reports to you. In light of recent news about the rise in global unemployment, the effect of automation and robotics on the prospect of full employment, and a renewed focus at the state level on student course, degree and program completion, it seems increasingly essential to keep these themes in the forefront of our collective consciousness. My hope is that, by doing so, we will begin to take the steps necessary to make steady and, dare I say, speedy progress instituting transformative and corrective actions.

One of those actions would be getting laptop computers and/or tablets into the hands of those of our students who have not been able to afford them, in addition to making some supportive arrangements with broadband Internet access providers so that students can take full advantage of the technology they will have.

With the renewed emphasis on completion as a measure of student success (Vice Chancellor Gerhard just mentioned Gov. Brown's recent proposals for change in how the system is funded), it is imperative that we begin preparing for any probable adjustments by, in part, improving completion rates for degrees, certificates, job readiness, job re-training and the courses required to meet those expectations. It seems highly unlikely that we can accomplish that improvement without providing students the tools and support they need.

Related to these imperatives, I will briefly mention a few faculty-driven events and an example of administrative support that are cultivating the ground within which these changes can be actualized.

My Laney colleague, Professor Peter Brown, recently distributed information about the effects of robotics and automation on employment, with a published article and a YouTube video presentation. The locations of these resources will be provided in the written version of this report.¹ In short, Professor Brown has demonstrated unequivocally why and how employment possibilities have changed dramatically in the past 10+ years and what must be done to prepare our students for succeeding in some of their chosen careers.

Earlier today/this week, the Smart Planet blog referenced a report on the rise in global unemployment, despite a rising middle class in emerging economies. The article goes on to state that "[M]any of the new jobs require skills that jobseekers do not have," recommending that "Governments should step up efforts to support skills and retraining activities in order to address such mismatches which particularly affect young people."²

During last week's flex days, Laney faculty conducted a highly successful dialogue workshop on Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs), two of which are Career Technical Education and Personal and

¹ <http://occupy.com/article/digital-disruption-technology-and-economics-99> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJnF8URsFus>

² <http://www.smartplanet.com/blog/bulletin/world-unemployment-rate-on-the-rise/10767?tag=search-river>

Professional Development. Faculty members from a wide range of disciplines were able to demonstrate and articulate the relationships integral to courses, programs, and the college mission that are exemplified by all five of the Institutional Learning Outcomes. All of the Peralta colleges have similar ILOs and I am hopeful that we can expand this kind of dialogue to the other three colleges so that anyone in the entire district is able to demonstrate and articulate these relationships. As you know, evidence of widespread dialogue is one of the criteria by which the ACCJC will evaluate our proficiency in the area of student learning outcomes and assessment.

At Laney's CTE division meeting, Dean Peter Crabtree shared a comprehensive presentation that showed the significance of Oakland as part of a regional economy and how critical it is that we prepare our students to compete with some of the best prepared workers in the country who are being drawn here by all of the attractive things that are happening in this region. I use those two examples, or those three examples as a way of supporting how urgent it is that we take rapid steps to make our students successful, in whatever ways we need to do that. I'll say more about that at another time. You'll hear more about these things as we continue through the year. Thank you. That concludes my report for tonight.