

DAS President's Report to the PCCD Board of Trustees for October 9, 2012
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Thank you Mr. President, and good evening trustees, chancellor, district administrative center staff, college presidents, colleagues and members of the public.

Last week, at the RP Group's annual Strengthening Student Success Conference in Costa Mesa, Peralta faculty and some of our most innovative programs were well represented and well received.

Berkeley City College (BCC) professors Jennifer Lowood, Cleavon Smith and Gabe Winer led a session showing how the results of student learning outcomes assessment were used to implement a departmental portfolio review process that drastically changed BCC English and ESL curriculum, pedagogy, course design and relevant professional development practices. The weaving together of those three elements has resulted in an accelerated, clear and cohesive English/ESL sequence of courses at Berkeley City College that will better support and facilitate student success, not only in those disciplines, but also in every discipline that requires college-level reading, writing and critical thinking.

Quoting from the conference program booklet, "While research studies have highlighted contextualization, acceleration and tutoring as some of the most promising approaches to address basic skills, few examples of the use of these approaches to engage ESL students with college-level material have been presented to date." Helping to fill that gap, Laney College professors Lisa Cook, Sonja Franeta and Suzan Tiemroth-Zavala described and presented video evidence to support a new model based on contextualized learning, individualized student support and an accelerated curriculum. Student voice videos illuminated perspectives on their learning in the Green Jobs Education Program, ESL Writing Workshop and accelerated ESL curriculum at Laney College.

One characteristic demonstrating proficiency level in student and program learning outcomes assessment is engaging in widespread institutional dialogue about assessment results, identifying gaps, and making curricular and other changes to address filling those gaps. These two conference presentations provide evidence that BCC and Laney are at the ACCJC's proficiency level in two of the largest disciplines that are integral to student success, in college courses and in the world of work. They were both strong representations of this year's conference theme: "Embracing and Leading Change." You'll be hearing more about our progress district-wide in Vice Chancellor Orkin's and Professor Diana Bajrami's update presentation on student learning outcomes later this evening.

A large contingent of Peralta faculty and administrators attended other conference sessions on new accreditation expectations for disaggregating data, transforming the college assessment process and outlook, integrating student learning outcomes and program review, tackling the narrative responses in the ACCJC's college status report on SLO implementation, and several more. We will be sharing the information gathered there with our colleagues in numerous shared governance settings.

PowerPoint presentations from the conference will be posted by October 19 and participants will receive an email blast when the presentations are online. For your edification, I will forward the link as soon as it is available.

That concludes my report for tonight. Thank you for receiving it.