

DAS President's Report to the Peralta CCD Board of Trustees for April 23, 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.

Every month the college curriculum committee chairpersons and other curriculum committee members come together as a district entity to process, approve and act on changes to course and program curricula throughout the district. This body, the Council on Instruction, Planning and Development (CIPD) is the last local step in a long and thorough process by which curriculum is developed.

Because the Peralta colleges share a common curriculum, this detailed and rigorous process ensures course and program quality, uniformity and articulation with 4-year colleges. The quality of our colleges is, first and foremost, a result of the quality of our curriculum, ideally delivered using quality instructional methodologies and by way of quality teaching. As you know, all California Community Colleges have been engaged in developing transfer model curriculum degrees in the most popular majors that, when completed successfully, is intended to guarantee students acceptance with junior standing at a California State University campus offering those degrees. Developing these transfer model curricula requires numerous adjustments, revisions and updates to the courses we offer.

This month the Peralta Council on Instruction, Planning and Development approved 4 new transfer model degrees, AAs in Art History for Transfer Degree (AA-T) at Berkeley City College and at College of Alameda, an AA in Political Science for Transfer Degree (AA-T) at College of Alameda, and an AA Degree in Studio Arts for Transfer at Laney College. Those approvals are just a few of the scores of course and program adjustments with which our faculty has been and will be engaged. After receiving your approval tonight, these four AA-T degrees will be moved on to the State Chancellor's office for review and, if all goes well, final, final approval and listing in the State Inventory of Programs.

Last week, ten Peralta faculty members attended the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) spring plenary session at the Westin San Francisco Airport. This plenary's theme was "Rising to the Challenge: Responding to Disruptive Forces". While acknowledging that many disruptive forces are currently acting upon us, the session planners had five specific forces in mind when they selected this theme. Those 5 "disruptive forces" identified in the Chronicle of Higher Education are as follows: *Completion*, *Demographics* (specifically diversity, lack of preparation and student behavior referred to as "swirling"), a "*Sea of red ink*" (referring to the costs of education for families, and a lack of state funding), *Improved alternatives* (Chancellor Ortiz mentioned one of them a few moments ago, U Now), and *Value* (that is, what does a degree really mean? What is getting a degree going to mean for a student?).

Those disruptive forces and the questions they generate continue to influence student success at Peralta, as they do throughout California. Indeed, as you heard earlier this evening, Peralta can add a 6th disruptive force to the list, that being *providing services and instructional support to meet the needs of a large and growing number of armed services veterans*. That force alone will require significant infrastructural changes. These are challenges we must address proactively and with much greater than usual alacrity.

That concludes my report for tonight. I appreciate your attention to these comments.