

Major Findings and Recommendations of the 2017 External Evaluation Team

Commendations

Commendation 1: The team commends the college for the development and ongoing success of the K-16 High School Bridge Program.

Commendation 2: The team commends the college for its commitment to student success for the planning and development of a centralized Tutorial Center combining tutoring, the writing center, and math lab.

Commendation 3: The team commends the college for developing a culture focused on integrated planning and creating a robust instructional program review that integrates student learning and achievement data, institutional planning and identification of programmatic needs for use in the institutional planning and resource allocation processes.

Commendation 4: The team commends the College for its partnerships with local cities and businesses in the development and success of their Aviation Technology Maintenance Program and Regional Public Safety Training Center.

Commendation 5: The team commends the college for its innovative approach to professional development for classified staff.

Commendation 6: The team commends the college and the facility committee for its award winning utility saving projects, including landscaping to reduce water usage and waste, solar voltaic projects, an updated energy management system, boiler replacements, LED lighting retrofits, power management systems, and integrating Savings by Design into facilities planning

Commendation 7: The team commends the college for creating a culture of mutual respect and student support. The team found campus-wide appreciation for the leadership of President Roger Wagner. The team also recognizes the positive shift in culture evidenced by VVC constituent groups.

Recommendations for Improvement and Compliance

Recommendation 1 (Compliance) In order to meet standards, the team recommends that the college complete the learning assessment process for programs (PLOs) and service areas (SAOs), integrate these assessments into the existing program review process and complete the development of a process to systematically analyze learning outcomes data by meaningful demographic disaggregation (Standard I.B.2, I.B.3, I.B.6, II.B.3 and ER 11).

Recommendation 2 (Effectiveness) In order to improve effectiveness, the team recommends that the college develop a process for addressing deficiencies in achieving Institutional Set Standards, including integrating the standards into the program review process, and creating comprehensive improvement plans (Standard I.B.3, ER 11).

Recommendation 3 (Compliance) In order to meet standards, the team recommends that the college strengthen its integrated planning process by reviewing the impact of funding decisions and formalizing the cycle of evaluation for its planning processes, policies, procedures and governance structures to ensure that the continuous improvement loop is closed. (Standards I.B.7, I.C.6, IIA.3, II.C.1, II.C.2, III.D.1, and IV.A.7).

Recommendation 4 (Compliance) In order to meet standards, the team recommends that the college develop a transfer of credit policy that describes the criteria through which credit from other institutions of higher education will be accepted and publish this policy broadly, including in the college catalog. (Standards I.C.2 and ER 20)

Recommendation 5 (Effectiveness) In order to improve effectiveness, the team recommends that the College increase student support services (i.e. Counseling, Financial Aid, Veterans Services) at off-site locations and for online students. (II.C.1., II.C.3., ER 15)

Recommendation 6 (Effectiveness) In order to improve effectiveness, the team recommends that the college examine the organizational structure and staffing of its executive level to ensure that the college maintains a sufficient number of administrators (III.A.10).

Recommendation 7 (Compliance) In order to meet the standards, The team recommends that the college ensures regular and effective contact in online courses and refine policies, procedures and processes as needed to ensure that there is evidence that all online courses have regular and effective contact (II.A.2, II.A.7 and DE Checklist).