

Paradise Valley Community College

Community Scanning

Legislative Update – February 26, 2009 - During my visitation to the State legislature, along with a group from MCCD, I met with Representatives Kavanagh and McComish, District paid lobbyist Kevin DeMenn, and State economist Alan Maguire. While all three sessions were very informative, I was struck by the varied messages: legislators indicated that the FY10 budget reductions might be more moderate than FY09; the lobbyists indicated that MCCD should continue to stay “below the radar” but keep legislators informed on the good work that we do because our overall funding is such a small part of the State budget; and the economist indicated that “a team of economists have been looking at the FY10 projected deficit full time over the last forty-five days without any solutions – we are at a loss.”

Other **State budget news** information from the trip – to solve this year’s budget deficit, the following strategies were used: \$500 million actual cuts, \$500 million reduction in fund balances and other corrections; \$500 million from the Economic Stimulus packages. It is also likely due to continued reduction in revenue that the State could still be short \$400 million in FY09. The FY10 budget is still pegged with a \$3 billion deficit. **The plan to address the FY10 budget includes roughly \$1b in cuts, \$1b in stimulus package moneys, and \$1b in tax strategies. As of April 8 - the current project budget reductions (worst case) for MCCD in FY10 range from \$4 million to \$5 million.**

Summary of my observations– while there was no definitive answers on the FY10 budget, given the continued slide in revenue, it is likely the projected deficit will hold true. MCCD will be asked to participate in continued reductions in order to balance. PVCC needs to continue to develop and refine budget reduction scenarios and look to incrementally correct our own budget structural deficit. It is likely that we will have to make additional cuts. **Based on more recent information, it is also likely that FY11 will be of greater concern in terms of potential budget cuts.**

Feeder school district visits – the State budget cuts are also adversely impacting operating budgets in our K-12 feeders to the point that both PVUSD and CCUSD are planning for staff reductions and increased class sizes (in fact increasing class sizes is one of their first strategies to address the shortfall); both districts are particularly pleased with our partnership programs including Early College and the ACE program with both Districts wishing to increase the number of students participating; and the fourth year of required math for incoming freshmen/women (Class of 2014) has not been finalized in terms of actual coursework.

Summary of my observations – there will likely be a number of OYO high school teachers non-renewed (as well as ASU adjuncts) that will be looking for teaching opportunities and we should find a way to reach out to these folks to build our adjunct pool; and with the budget challenges in the K – 12 pressing, this is a perfect time to expand our partnership programs including Early College and dual enrollment. **Two high schools specifically requested opportunities for dual enrollment and an expanded Early College program.**

Business Visits – I am attempting to visit a local business once a week to learn how PVCC can better reach this element of our service area, and as you can imagine, the area surrounding our college continues to change – here are some, perhaps trivial, changes: 1) in general business is down along the Bell road corridor, partly due to the overall traffic flow on Bell Road has been dramatically reduced with the completion of the 101; 2) currently ASU is developing a plan to re-develop the Bell Road corridor from 7th avenue east (low cost improvements to draw people to the area); 3) picketers continue their daily protests at the Work Center 25th Street, south of Bell which has an adverse impact on the business friendliness of the area; 4) while the economy has adversely impacted many of the undocumented workers living in the Palomino neighborhood, the school populations at Palomino Elementary remains stable and 5) **transportation infrastructure improvements will make it easier to get to PVCC including the widening of I-17 to Anthem, and widening of Cave Creek Road north of the 101.**

Summary of my observations – this is also an opportunity for PVCC to become involved in our local community as part of our service mission. We are already making inroads in expanding our participation in the North Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, and the Palomino Neighborhood Association.

Relationships with ASU, NAU and private universities – with the expanded MCCD – ASU Alliance, there will be more opportunity for students to accumulate more hours with PVCC before transferring (goals of the Alliance include: doubling the number of MCCD students transferring to ASU; double the percentage of MCCD students transferring with an Associate's degree; ensure seamless transfer). With the overall cost of a baccalaureate increasing, PVCC has a niche advantage with the two-plus-two degrees offered by NAU on our campus (business, elementary education) and the new three-plus-one degree to be offered beginning this fall.

Learning resources (open sources, electronic text books, on-line text books, etc.) – there are opportunities to: reduce costs to students and to enhance teaching and learning through the use of open source material and electronic text books. Colleges who pursue this will have a competitive advantage – i.e. SCC will be developing open source materials for six science classes this summer (in some cases saving students over \$300 in text book costs; Rio has an exclusive deal with Pearson Publishing where texts generally are offered at half the normal cost.

Local area economy – several of our service areas including 85032 zip code and Cave Creek have some of the highest foreclosure rates in Maricopa County. Unemployment at the national level has reached 8.5 percent.

At the national level – Martha J. Kanter, president of Foothill-De Anza Community College has been nominated as the under secretary of education. This should bring greater emphasis to the community colleges at the national policy level. Financial aid – the maximum Pell grant has been increased to \$5,350 annually and there will be mandatory funding for the Pell Grant program in FY11. A new tax credit program is also part of the Stimulus Package. The Federal government is also moving towards greater levels of accountability in terms of student success. President Obama

has set a goal that by 2020, the United States will be first in the world in college completion rates (moving from the current 39% to 60%).

Changing learning patterns – the Instructional Technology Council reports that community colleges experienced an 11 percent increase in distance learning enrollments with a trend toward hybrid learning. PVCC evening adult part time student enrollments continue to decline.

MCCD – the District Governing Board has an RFP on the streets to: “review the District’s over all organizational structure, decision making, span of control, work flows, personnel policies with an intent to create economic efficiencies, revitalization of program offerings to meet a changing environment.”

Accountability for Student Success - there is a growing trend to measure and benchmark student success indicators. MCCD has identified student success targets; the federal government is likely to begin placing incentives on student success measures; PVCC participates in several national benchmarking programs.

The Community College as the “new gateway to the baccalaureate degree” – with the current economic conditions, increased university costs, and an increased desire of our feeder high schools to expand dual and early college enrollments, the community colleges are poised to become a bigger player.