

State of the College
Los Angeles Mission College

August 27, 2014

Introduction

Every year during Flex Day I provide the college an overview of the past Academic Year and where we are headed in the coming Academic Year 14-15. I take great pleasure in doing this, because I want all the Mission family to hear about our accomplishments and the significant goals we will be addressing in the coming year.

Accomplishments in AY 13-14

Accreditation

1. First and foremost I want to tell you about how magnificent our work was with accreditation. As you know we had 14 recommendations in March 2013. This is almost unheard of. Many of the recommendations highlighted three primary areas: research/evaluation, collegiality and student services. We worked very hard to address all 14 recommendations and the visiting team in March 2014 found that we met the standards for 9 of the 14 recommendations. Five were remaining but we had made significant progress. We provided the Commission another progress report May 15, 2014 and attended the Accreditation Commission along with the Vice President of Academic Affairs, Michael Allen. We presented our case just how far we had come. On July 5, 2014 we were notified by the Commission that we were taken off warning and granted full reaffirmation. What an accomplishment. What other college has ever gone from 14 recommendations to full reaffirmation in one year. Mission has

and my salute goes out to the Accreditation Steering Committee, faculty, staff, administrators, and students that made this happen.

Institutional improvement was the result of the accreditation recommendations. We are now an evidence based collegial culture. We have the systems in place to ensure that we reach institutional benchmarks in student learning and student achievement.

We are assessing our progress, making changes based on these assessments, and evaluating the efficacy of the changes we are implementing for continuous improvement.

The effort to assess student learning is ongoing. The college established the Learning Outcomes Assessment Committee (LOAC) that will meet monthly to ensure that course, program, and institutional outcomes are assessed, changes are initiated and evaluation of the impact of these changes on student learning will be completed annually. The faculty leadership working with LOAC, Council of Instruction and individual faculty continues to be guided by the work of Professors Pat Flood and Deborah Paulsen.

2. The next accomplishment was the growth we achieved in AY 13-14. All of the nine colleges were challenged to obtain 3.63% growth over last year. We achieved above that and because we did \$1M more apportionment funds were allocated to our base budget for AY 14-15. We set a trajectory that will continue in future years.
3. We achieved a positive balance in FY 13-14. We are not a deficit campus. We had deficits in restricted funds in Child Development, DSPS, and other areas but I want to thank the Bookstore and our other accounts for making up the difference. I want to especially

thank Administrative Services for working so hard to ensure that we would not have deficit going into FY 14-15.

4. We had so many student success initiatives that proved to be invaluable. Our work with STEM, ATD, EOPS, and high school early intervention have demonstrated that when a college makes a commitment to meet the needs of students they will be successful. This is evident with the booming enrollments this fall 2014. To add to this array of successes we have initiated:

- Reentry
- New C TE programs in IT and biotech
- STEM

The Bond Program

We have completed 90% of our building program. Unfortunately we did not get the student services/administration and athletic fields built, however the district is planning another bond proposal for 2016. Student Services and Athletic fields will be high priorities for the next Bond. The final project that is funded is the central energy plant. We have the funding and are moving forward. The central plant will reduce our utilities by \$250,000. This is good news because our annual utilities bill is \$1.5 million.

AY 2014-15 Vision

We have an exciting full plate for this coming academic year. I am proud to say the Senate, administration, unions, and our students are more than ready to tackle the year. I will like to take the opportunity to introduce our new ASO President, Ray Gosen. He is very eager to work with the Mission community to ensure students are at the forefront to exciting new ventures. His parents are Mission alumni and have nothing but to offer their full support.

1. Accreditation-we have a follow up report on the 5 remaining recommendations to be submitted by March 2015. In addition we have to prepare for the accreditation visits in fall 2016 of the nine LACCD campuses. Thus, we will need to bolster the activities of the Accreditation Steering Committee, acquire new members,

and build teams of Standards 1 through 4. I am confident Mission is up to the task. We have proven leadership and committed faculty, staff, administrators, and students ready and willing to step up.

2. Student Success-With the passage of Senate Bill 1456 the State of California established the Student Support Success Program commonly called Triple SP. Triple SP is funding for ensure that all students are assessed, oriented, and complete educational plans. This is a performance based funded program and that means colleges will only get funded based on the number of students who were assessed, oriented, and acquired educational plans.

In addition the State of California has also funded student equity initiatives. Each college must submit a plan and obtain funding to meet the needs of populations that are not completing their education at the same level as the general student body. Thus, ethnic and racial groups, English as a Second Language groups, immigrants, and other identified groups that are not achieving will obtain targeted and additional services so that they can raise their level of achievement.

These two state initiatives have now prompted colleges to re-think their student success efforts. We must find a way to integrate what we have learned from previous interventions into an institution wide and sustainable effort. Thus, Achieving the Dream, EOPS, Cal Works, Foster Care, DSPS, STEM and a host of other interventions need to provide the framework for institution wide student success efforts. We will use the coming Academic Year to make this happen.

3. Enrollment Management-as I stated before we met our 3.63% growth target last year. Now the district has set a 4.75% target for this Academic Year. I am happy to report that as of today we are over 7.2% of our fall enrollment this academic year over last fall. We have 10,200 students coming to Mission this fall so far. It appears we will meet the 4.75% growth target and perhaps go beyond that. It will take careful planning and I applaud Academic Affairs, Council of Instruction, and Student Services in their efforts to achieve this important milestone.

4. Budget-we did have a positive balance in FY 13-14, however we will need to work hard to achieve this again at the end of FY 14-15. With growth we get more funding, but the expenses to achieve growth in paying for more classes often outweighs our gain. In addition our utility bills continues to rise. We estimate that we will go from 1.5M to 1.75M in this coming year. Also, we need to ensure that restricted accounts such as Child Development and other categorical programs have revenue that match expenditures. This is no small task. However, I am confident with the sound leadership in Administrative Services and the commitment by faculty to have larger size classes we can meet this challenge and end the year with a positive balance.

5. New Ventures-we are going to increase our presence in CTE. The nation and state are counting on us to graduate students who can enter the workforce with highly skilled training. We will continue to support our existing CTE programs and launch new ones. Fortunately with funding from the State's Career Pathway Programs we can move forward on this effort. STEM is working diligently to establish an Engineering Pathway program in

cooperation with CSUN. Pathways are the models that have gained favor with the federal and state legislators. Making sure that community colleges are aligned with high schools, and four year institutions to ensure that students complete CTE certificates and degrees that meet business and industry employment needs is now our calling.

Customer Service-one area I would believe must be implemented this year is improved customer service for our students.

I want to challenge the campus to establish initiatives that will promote customer service that meets the needs of our students. The college will provide professional development opportunities that will prepare faculty, staff, and students to heighten our customer service. We need our students to feel welcomed but also we need them to be connected. We know that many students lose faith in their education when they continue to encounter institutional hurdles. If we can reduce these hurdles and provide supportive guidance so that they can navigate the college and achieve their academic goals, then we would have succeeded in providing

6. Community Partnerships-finally it is imperative that we forge comprehensive and committed community support for our college. To do this we need to foster community support. I am working with a host of diverse community organizations, business, and nonprofit organizations to build a "Friends of Mission" association. Ongoing meetings with community leaders and college leaders will be convened by my office. The goal is to gain their support for scholarships, community visibility, and trust. It is in this way that we can have positive press, presence, and build a

brand that Mission is the place to be. We are welcoming, high quality, and care about our students.

Summary

We are on a pathway to excellence and success. It is because of faculty who are dedicated to these ideals.

- Student Success
- Collegiality
- Collaboration
- Academic Quality
- Customer Service-Meeting the needs of our students