

**EXCERPT FROM THE  
EXTERNAL EVALUATION REPORT  
RELATED TO RECOMMENDATION 1**

**Standard I – Institutional Mission and  
Effectiveness Standard I.A – Mission**

**General Observations**

In general, the College has made a good faith effort to develop a mission that defines its broad educational purposes and its commitment to achieving student learning. However, the College does not specifically spell out its intended student population in its mission statement.

The Las Positas mission statement was approved by the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District's Board of Trustees on April 16, 2013 and is published in the College's catalog and on its website. Las Positas College has reviewed its mission statement and revised it accordingly.

The College, trying to bring about a more transparent system of linkages between the mission and planning/decision-making, had to revamp their planning process and created the new Integrated Planning Committee (IPC) that began meeting in Spring 2014. The charge of this body is to work with the College Council to coordinate the College's goals with planning and budgeting decisions in an effective cycle. The IPC has made great strides in revising the College's integrated planning and budget cycle. The College must continue this progress in the further development of linkages between the mission, planning and resource allocation.

**Findings and Evidence**

The mission statement for Las Positas College is: "Las Positas College is an inclusive learning- centered institution providing educational opportunities and support for completion of students' transfer, degree, basic skills, career technical education and retraining goals." This mission has been refined to better align it to student goals and increase student success by establishing learning programs and services aligned with its purpose, its character, and its student population. The College is committed to its students and the surrounding community through its offering of various programs and its commitments to infrastructure and technology. The College partners with the community for the betterment of its' students and the health of its surrounding service area. An example of this commitment to community comes through in the AB 86 initiative. The College has worked with the community to align programs and curriculum with Tri-Valley adult education related to ESL, basic skills, Career Technical Education and a variety of student services.

This commitment has been validated in a number of areas. First, 77 percent of employees in fall 2014 said that the College's programs and services are aligned with the mission statement. Second, student satisfaction survey results in fall 2014 have improved over fall 2012 levels illustrating the College's commitment to the achievement of student goals. Finally, the community validated its confidence in the College and the programs and services it provides with its passage of Measure B which allowed the College to better serve the constituents of the Tri-Valley area. However, the College does not specifically state its intended student population within the mission statement. (Standard 1.A.1)

The Las Positas mission statement was approved by the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District's Board of Trustees on April 16, 2013 and is published in the College's catalog and on its website. (Standard 1.A.2)

Las Positas College has reviewed its mission statement and revised it accordingly. The process began in fall 2012 when the College Council approved the timeline for the process. On October 3, 2012 a draft of the College mission statement was prepared by the Planning Task Force and reviewed at a college-wide Town Hall meeting. Feedback was then used by the Planning Task Force to create a revised draft of the College mission, vision and values statements. These revisions were presented at a November 7, 2012 Town Hall meeting. Further revisions and a glossary of terms were produced by the Planning Task Force and forwarded to the College Council for approval. These statements were then approved by the Academic Senate, Classified Senate and the Student Senate. The College Council provided its final approval on March 27, 2013 and forwarded them to Chancellor's Council. After Chancellor's Council approval, final approval by the Board of Trustees came on April 16, 2013. Approximately 60% of College personnel agreed or strongly agreed that the process for developing, approving and communicating the mission statement was effective. The College's Institutional Effectiveness Committee also evaluated the review process and found it to be effective. (Standard 1.A.3)

The College is attempting to make sure the mission is central to institutional planning and decision-making. After the current mission statement was approved, the College Council charged the Planning Task Force to develop an integrated planning system that linked College goals with planning and budget activity in an effective cycle. The result was the creation of the Integrated Planning Committee (IPC) in fall 2013.

The IPC's new planning and budget cycle uses the revised program review process, which includes a template which requires consideration of the College's mission in each programs review, as the cornerstone to developing planning priorities that guide resource allocation. Four planning priorities, including support for the curriculum process, student learning outcomes, tutoring services along with accreditation were developed for 2015-16 and 2016-17. Over 75 percent of employees felt the mission statement is central to planning and decision-making and 67 percent see a clear link between planning in their area and the College mission. The IPC has made substantial progress in revising its integrated planning and budget cycle. The College must continue this progress in the further development of linkages between the mission, planning and resource allocation. (Standard 1.A.4)

## **Conclusion**

The College has made considerable progress to establish its programs and services so that they are aligned with its purposes, its character and its student population in the surrounding area, although they don't specifically mention that student population in the mission statement. It is only inferred that they are talking about the Tri-Valley surrounding community. The College's review of their mission through its governance and decision-making processes, ultimately leading to the mission statement's approval by the Board of Trustees in April 2013, is an example of how the process works. The College, trying to bring about a more transparent system of linkages between the mission and planning/decision-making, had to revamp their planning process and created the new Integrated Planning Committee (IPC) that began meeting in Spring 2014. The charge of this body is to work with the College Council to coordinate the College's goals with planning and budgeting decisions in an effective cycle. The IPC has made great strides in revising its integrated planning and budget cycle. The College must continue this progress in the further development of linkages between the mission, planning and resource allocation.

The College meets most of the Standards but does not meet Standards I.A.4 and I.A.5.

## **Recommendation**

1. To improve institutional effectiveness, the team recommends that the College specify the population it serves in the mission statement and establish stronger linkages from the mission to the integrated planning cycle and resource allocation by concentrating on its educational master plan goals. (1.A.4)