

NORCO COLLEGE *REGULAR UPDATE*

April 20, 2018

Hello, Mustangs!

Below is the newest Norco College Regular Update, aligned to the college's seven Strategic Planning Goals. In case you've missed any issues, all Regular Updates are archived on the President's webpage: <http://www.norcollege.edu/about/president/Pages/Regular-Update.aspx>.

Happy reading!

Strategic Goal 1: Increase Student Achievement and Success

Completion Initiative and Guided Pathways

- Areas of Emphasis (AOE) pathways can now be found on the Schools' webpages: [School of Arts and Humanities](#); [School of Business and Management](#); [School of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics](#); and [School of Social and Behavioral Sciences](#).
- Last week, [InsideTrack](#) training was conducted for classified staff, focusing on managing student caseloads, advising, and coaching within a Guided Pathways framework. This week, counselors and faculty received training. A report from InsideTrack, expected in early May, will help us reorganize our advising and coaching models for Guided Pathways.
- The Completion Initiative workgroup is working on enhancing communication of "what's happening" with the Completion Initiative.
- In September, Norco College's Completion Initiative team will attend Guided Pathways Institute #4, titled Redesigning Student Intake and Ongoing Student Support.
- With the upcoming implementation of [AB 705](#), Student Services is looking at functions of the Assessment Center, including the linking of career assessments early on in students' careers to help them determine pathways. Also, the Assessment Center's testing room may need to take on other testing accommodations, for example, those needed for DRC, career assessments, and placements in disciplines other than English and math.
- In addition, [AB 705](#) implementation requires coordination of Student Services and Academic Affairs, in that Student Services will enforce and support curriculum decisions made by English and math disciplines.

Foster Care Program

- Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Educational Support (CAFYES) grant notification of intent was received this week, and includes Norco College on the list to receive funding. The notification announcement explains that "CAFYES applications were peer-reviewed and competitively scored" based on objectives and grant criteria. The Board of Governors will review the list and take final action at its May 14-15 meeting. The College submitted a proposal for a \$150,000 to \$250,000 grant.

Strategic Goal 2: Improve the Quality of Student Life

Athletics

- To provide equal athletics offerings for men and women, the College anticipates adding women's cross country (a fall sport) or lacrosse (a spring sport) next year.

Unity Zone

- An open house/"somewhat formal" opening of the Unity Zone is planned for May 17. Look for more information as the date approaches.
- A temporary part-time student success coach is expected to be in place soon for the Unity Zone, which will allow for regular hours along with continued faculty/staff volunteer hours.

Strategic Goal 3: Increase Student Access

Apprenticeships

- **Wow!** The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded approximately \$596,000 to Riverside Community College District (RCCD) and Norco College for the Norco College Apprenticeship Program under the direction of Charles Henkels. The grant begins July 1, 2018. Thanks to those at RCCD who worked on the grant and to Norco's NSF Grant Guru Colleen Molko, associate dean of Career & Technical Education!

Early Registration

- The District Enrollment Management Committee met on Thursday, April 19, with the item of multi-term registration on its agenda. If approved, winter and spring 2019 registration will occur simultaneously in October 2018. Representatives from the college curriculum committees were included in the discussion and raised concerns about the catalog deadline changes that would be required to implement early (multiple term) registration. It was agreed that more discussion and planning are needed before implementation can be finalized.

High School Partnership Program

- The Corona-Norco Unified School District (CNUSD) and Norco College are meeting with a group of citizens in Temescal Valley to talk about a South Corona campus joint project, a shared, or hybrid, college center and high school campus.
- California Career and Access Pathways (CCAP) agreements with Alvorad Unified School District and Jurupa Unified School District went to the Board of Trustees in April, and a revised CCAP agreement with the Corona-Norco Unified School District for additional school sites will go to the board in May.

Next Phase Program

- Brantley Choate, director of the Division of Rehabilitative Programs at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, wants to set up a meeting to discuss Norco College's role in expanding the California Rehabilitation Center (CRC) into an educational center and possibly rehabilitating the Norconian Hotel for educational purposes.
- The College is excited about an offer and acceptance for the director of inmate education position. The name will be announced following Board of Trustees approval.

Veterans Education/Promise Program

- The inaugural Dinner with the President event on April 19 placed a spotlight on veterans education with approximately two hundred attendees, including RCCD Board of Trustees members, RCCD Foundation Board members, Chancellor Wolde-Ab Isaac, Moreno Valley College President Robin Steinback, Assembly Member Sabrina Cervantes, and a host of community and civic leaders. In recognition of her work on behalf of our

students and the region, Assembly Member Cervantes received the inaugural Norco College President's Award.

- On April 17, the Board of Trustees approved Lorenzo Harmon as the director of the Veterans Resource Center. His first day will be May 1.
- The College is talking with the California Department of Veterans Affairs, or CalVet, about possible state funding for veterans housing. Assembly Member Cervantes reiterated her desire to work with Norco College on providing affordable veterans housing and childcare.
- A housing feasibility study will be conducted soon to determine demand and regional cost comparisons.
- The College has contracted with software developer ITPI to develop a cloud-based Military Articulation Platform. Funding for this comes from the \$2 million Veterans Resource Center appropriation facilitated by Assembly Member Cervantes. Phase 1 of the platform is nearing completion. Phase 1 is a tool for faculty to create course-to-course articulations between our catalog and courses in the ACE Military Guide database. Phase 2 is also underway and will allow us to link regional veterans occupation codes (for the prior military training they completed) to Norco College articulated courses. Our May 1 goal is to have all gaming courses articulated so that a short list of veterans with articulation completed can be recruited for fall 2018.
- Dr. Bryan Reece, Norco College president, will be testifying at the California State Assembly's Committee on Higher Education regarding [AB 1786](#), authored by Assembly Member Sabrina Cervantes. This bill would set up a statewide articulation officer for California Community Colleges to determine academic credit for military experience.
- A user group is meeting to finalize the design for the Veterans Resource Center. A grand opening is anticipated in late fall 2019. The site is in the general area of the flags along Third Street, near STEM.

Strategic Goal 4: Create Effective Community Partnerships

National Photonics Research Center

- The College is monitoring federal legislation to see how much money might be available for a photonics center.

Strategic Goal 5: Strengthen Student Learning

Classroom Resources

- Over spring break, Technology Support Services installed twenty-five new computers and monitors in CACT 2.
- **Hey, Look!** Replacement computers for the library (55 PCs) and ATEC 109 (30 PCs) have been delivered and will be installed during the summer term (if not sooner).
- **Wow!** Through Strong Workforce and STEM grant funds, up to ten rooms that serve STEM classes will be updated to create more interactive learning space. Changes might include white boards on more walls, flexible furniture, and newer technology. The purpose is to create model classrooms that lend themselves to culturally responsive pedagogy and encourage collaboration. Faculty input is being sought in the design of ideal learning spaces.

Faculty News

- **Wow!** Brady Kerr, instructor of music industry studies, will be honored with an Excellence in Teaching Award at the Inland Empire/Desert Regional Consortium's 7th Annual Excellence Awards breakfast on May 7. Brady is being recognized for "the

exemplary teaching and learning experiences” he facilitates for students in music industry studies at Norco College. Congratulations, Brady!

- Kim Kamerin, assistant professor of music, and Dr. Marshall Fulbright, dean of instruction, are meeting on May 3 with Corona Symphony Director Don Kindred to discuss offering Norco College music classes at the Corona Civic Center for students in the Corona Youth Symphony Conservatory. This will be the second meeting to discuss this exciting opportunity.

Teaching & Learning

- With a focus on embedding culturally responsive pedagogy into the curriculum and classrooms, a team of Norco College faculty from the four Schools, along with Dean of Instruction Marshall Fulbright, will attend the Equity as the Norm Institute, June 4-5 in Los Angeles, which is organized by the Center for Urban Education, USC Rossier School of Education.

Strategic Goal 6: Demonstrate Effective Planning Processes

Accreditation Preparation

- The [2018 Annual Report](#) and the [2018 Annual Fiscal Report](#) were submitted to ACCJC April 3. Both can be found on the [Reports and Documents page](#) of the College’s Accreditation website.
- Accreditation standards committees’ gap analyses were due by spring break, and the accreditation co-chairs are reviewing and compiling the information to determine where to focus attention. The next step for each committee is to begin compiling a “drafty draft” for its standard, which is due by the end of the semester.
- Upcoming Steering Committee meetings are scheduled for April 27 and May 25, 8:30-10:30 a.m.
- Members of the Accreditation 2020 Steering Committee will attend an ACCJC Institutional Self-Evaluation Report Training on May 2 in Ontario.

Organizing around Our Schools

- The primary purpose for reorganization is to position the college for growth by significantly improving student access, success, and equity—to flip the success numbers from 15% to 85%. We believe the solution starts with organizing around our Schools and programs of study, within which integrated student success teams guide students along their entire pathway to completion. A critical part of this reorganization is the creation of a new Strategic Development office devoted to bringing in new funding, nurturing key relationships, and improving our marketing, outreach, and communications—all so we can add the necessary resources to support our students along the pathway. The most recent draft of the reorganizational charts was released in a “nor-all” email from Dr. Reece on Monday, April 16, which includes the Student Services organizational chart. To compare, current organizational charts for the College can be found under the Management Team tab on the President’s webpage: <http://norcolleage.edu/about/president/Pages/Management-Team.aspx>.
- College conversations continue around institutional reorganization, and reorganizational charts continue to be modified through this process. An updated deliberation calendar also is attached to Dr. Reece’s April 16 “nor-all” email. In addition, the Academic Senate held a faculty-only meeting to discuss the reorganization on April 19 and another will be scheduled in the next week or so. Over fifty meetings will have been held when the process is completed, not counting “sidebar” discussions in department meetings, weekly deans’ meetings, and others. All members of the college community are encouraged to participate in the conversations.

- Given the progress of discussions for reorganization, the college community is starting to think about issues of implementation, such as budgeting strategies, contract and human resources guidelines, immediate staffing needs and prioritization for others, and other changes.

Program Review

- Program reviews from all units are due on **May 1**. This year the College is using a new, easier online process, thanks to the work of Dr. Alexis Gray, Dr. Kevin Fleming, and the Program Review Committee.

Safety

- The Facilities team installed new lockdown and emergency procedure posters in addition to Lock Bloks and Door Bloks in classrooms and many spaces across the College during spring break. See the April 16 “nor-all” email from Justin Czerniak, college safety and emergency planning coordinator, for Lock Blok and Door Blok directions and copies of emergency procedure posters.
- Upcoming safety trainings continue between now and **May 17**, the day of the full campus evacuation drill (time to be determined). A list of trainings and announcements are available at the Norco College Safety Preparedness and Information Twitter site: <https://twitter.com/NCSafetyPrep>.

Signage

- The wayfinding workgroup has received two of three proposals and will reconvene once the third is available to review.

Strategic Planning

- Responses from the Strategic Planning Council (ISPC) and Committee of the Whole (COTW) discussion and activities from early April are being collected and will be given to a smaller group comprised of representatives from administration, classified staff, faculty, and the student body to come up with a first draft of a new mission statement.
- All functions for revision of the Educational Master Plan are proceeding through ISPC. A small group is working on this revision. A series of reports is being used to inform this work, including a District regional scan and SWOT analysis, from which Norco College-related information is isolated, and other research coordinated by Dr. Greg Aycock, dean of Institutional Effectiveness, and a consultant, Deborah Shepley of Gensler company.
- The college is on track to begin the new calendar year, in January or February 2019, with a new Educational Master Plan and Strategic Plan. This work will culminate in a new Facilities Master Plan, which will include updates for a multimedia and arts center, kinesiology, library and Learning Resource Center, and will add the Veterans Resource Center, STEM/photronics, and housing.

Technology

- The testing phase of Concur, the District’s new electronic travel system for travel requests and reimbursement, will end April 23, to be followed by the validation phase, during which corrections provided by taskforce will be applied. The pilot period for Norco College is May 23 to September 30. Midway through the pilot period, the taskforce will gather to assess college-level use.

Strategic Goal 7: Strengthen our Commitment to our Employees

Great Colleges to Work for Survey

- Results of the Great Colleges to Work for Survey, conducted in March, are expected in late July. The survey, sponsored by the College’s administration, the Academic Senate,

CTA, and CSEA, assesses the institution in campus climate, job satisfaction, and institutional effectiveness.