Student Campus Climate/Needs Assessment Survey Results
June, 2014

In Spring, 2014, all three Colleges conducted a survey of their students to assess students' perceptions about the quality of the education and services they receive from the Colleges; to determine if students believe there are any courses or programs that the Colleges do not currently offer that should be offered; and to understand student perceptions about the campus climate (i.e., safety, cleanliness, supportive environment, etc.).

The Colleges conducted the surveys online. All enrolled students received invitations to participate in the survey through their @my.smccd.edu accounts with hyperlinks to the online instrument. Students enrolled at more than one College ("cross-enrolled") received a survey invitation from each College at which they were enrolled. As each College survey posed questions specific to that College, cross-enrolled students were allowed to respond to multiple College surveys. Approximately 3,200 responses to the survey were received. This represents close to 13 percent of possible survey participants.

Characteristics of survey respondents compared to District characteristics were as follows:

		Survey Population	District Population*
Age	19 or younger	21%	25%
	20 – 25	32%	38%
	26 – 30	12%	10%
	31 – 39	14%	13%
	40 – 49	10%	7%
	50 or older	10%	7%
Race / Ethnicity	African American or Black	4%	4%
	Asian	19%	15%
	Filipino	9%	10%
	Hispanic/Latino	26%	23%
	Multi-Racial	5%	16%
	Native American	0%	0%
	Other/Unknown	6%	4%
	Pacific Islander	1%	2%
	White	29%	27%
Gender	Female	65%	53%
	Male	35%	45%
Enrollment status	Part Time (less than 12 units)	61%	68%
	Full Time (12 or more units)	39%	32%

* District population statistics are based on Spring 2014 census reporting.

Following is a summary of the findings from the study.

Academic Program

Overall, students responding to the survey gave their educational experience a favorable rating by indicating that, if they were starting over, they would choose to attend one of our Colleges (92 percent) and that they would recommend one of our Colleges to a friend or family member (97 percent). In addition, they overwhelmingly found the quality of instruction to be excellent (91 percent) and indicated they are able to get the classes they need most of the time (86 percent).

Other academic program findings:

- 93% believe that faculty members encourage students to examine different points of view.
- 93% believe that their College encourages free and open discussion of controversial issues.
- 92% believe assessment and course placement processes are reasonable.
- 92% indicated that program requirements are clear and reasonable.
- 92% said lab equipment is up to date.
- 93% said computer equipment is up to date.
- 95% indicate the library has an adequate collection of books, periodicals, etc. for student research.
- 89% believed the library and learning center maintained sufficient operating hours for student access.
- 90% believed that grading practices (exams, quizzes, papers, etc.) used to evaluate students are fair.
- 96% are aware of consequences for unethical behavior (e.g. cheating, plagiarism).
- Finally, 90 percent of respondents believed that the colleges did a good job of preparing students to enter the workforce and 92 percent believed the same about transfer.

Student Services

A majority of students believe that counselors are knowledgeable about program requirements (89 percent) and 90 percent stated that their counselor is knowledgeable about transfer requirements or requirements at other institutions. In addition:

- 93 % believed personnel in admissions and registration are informed and helpful.
- 89% believed information about financial aid and scholarships is readily available.
- 93% stated that personnel in student support services are informed and helpful.

Campus Climate

A large majority (93 percent) of students indicated that classrooms are clean, neat and conducive to learning. Additionally, 91 percent felt the overall physical campus is sufficiently modernized for student needs and 97 percent said that they felt safe on campus. In response to the question about whether their campus was supportive of all students regardless of ethnicity, gender, religious beliefs, lifestyle, background or sexuality, 97 percent of students agreed. Other campus climate findings include:

- 97% agreed that their College supports a community of diverse cultures.
- 94% agreed that the campus environment can be characterized as one of mutual respect between students and faculty.
- 93% said that there are adequate places on campus for them to meet and study with other students.
- 86% said that if they had a problem with their classes, they knew where to go on campus to get help.
- 94% stated that their campus provided an environment that encourages personal growth.

Other Findings

Students were asked if there are courses or programs that the Colleges do not currently offer that they believe should be offered. There were more than 1400 suggestions from students about new programs or classes they believe the District should offer. Many of the suggestions were duplicates and many of the suggested courses/programs were for curriculum the Colleges are already offering. This data will be reviewed and refined by the Instruction Office at each of the three Colleges.

Students were also asked how they prefer their courses to be offered and they responded

- 78% 16 week semesters
- 37% 8 week intensive sessions
- 24% weekend classes

Furthermore, 11 percent indicated they frequently enrolled in online courses.

In response to the question: "If the College were to offer a structured package of courses in which a student is guaranteed a seat and completion of your degree in two years, would you enroll?" 89 percent of respondents answered "Yes".

When asked why they chose to enroll at their college, students most frequently gave the following responses; (in order)

- 54% - Affordable cost
- 54% - Live close by
- 47% - Offers the courses I want
- 41% - To complete my lower division courses and then transfer
- 31% - Academic Reputation
- 28% - Recommended by family member or friend
- 26% - Was unsure of my educational goals and wanted to explore
- 19% - Enrolled for other reasons
- 17% - Recommendation from high school counselor or teacher

Finally, students were asked how they receive information about the College and the responses were[1]:

- 67% - WebSMART
- 56% - Student email communications from the College
- 50% - WebSCHEDULE
- 46% - Schedule of Classes
- 44% - College Catalog
- 36% - Rate My Professor
- 31% - College Center Counter (Student Ambassadors)
- 26% - College Event Calendar
- 25% - Other Sources
- 24% - Brochures
- 22% - Campus postings/ marketing materials
- 21% - Electronic messaging on campus
- 15% - Social Media: Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter

[1] *Note for interpretation: Institutional researchers at each of the Colleges noticed interesting nuances for this section of data. In particular, for some of the items, findings for one College were noticeably different than those for the other two Colleges. Therefore, while findings here do represent those of the District as a whole, additional analysis is needed to better understand why these differences exist and how they impact student climate findings.*