

Moving Forward - Economic Development

Program Development

The economic downturn in California has resulted in many layoffs and higher unemployment rates. As a result, more Californians are looking for new jobs and retraining opportunities to transition into high growth sectors such as health care and high-tech industries. K-12 is also in a growth mode as it faces a critical teacher shortage. Santa Monica College is in a good position to become the primary trainer of individuals to create a well-prepared workforce who can work in these high growth occupations.

Other Program Ideas

Expansion of Summer Bridge Programs-

The success of SMC's Summer Bridge Programs (Summer Business Institute, Summer Science Institute, and Launchpad) has provided opportunities to over 200 high school students to be enrolled in credit courses and a head start into higher education. Title V will provide additional funds to expand the enrollments of our summer bridge programs to more high school students.

ACT Testing Center-

A new testing center will be developed and coordinated by the Community Services Program to provide certification testing in various areas such as dietician, transportation security administration, association of social work boards, and nuclear medicine technology.

WorkSource Center

Formally called "One Stop Centers", SMC is working with the City of Los Angeles to relocate the West Los Angeles WorkSource Center at the Bundy Campus. The purpose of the WorkSource Center is to provide career assessments, job training, and job placement services to dislocated workers who have laid-off from their jobs. WorkSource are funded at \$1.6 million annually to provide these services.

Knitwear Program

SMC has formed a strong collaboration with the Cooper Building which is located in the heart of the fashion district in Los Angeles. They are open to continuing the fashion-based training funded by the Employment Training Panel to service their many tenants. SMC just recently completed training over 130 apparel-related workers from businesses throughout the greater Los Angeles area.

THE RATIONALE FOR A DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AT SMC

The Early Childhood Development Department at SMC drew upon the current research that outlines the disturbing shortage of teachers facing California and the rest of the nation. According to the Los Angeles Times (January 26, 2004), the California Department of Education calculates that meeting anticipated enrollment will necessitate the construction of 19 new classrooms every day, seven days a week, for the next five years. That's about 230 new classrooms a year.(An additional 22 classrooms per day will need to be modernized).

Besides a burgeoning enrollment, teacher turnover in California and elsewhere is massive. The Carnegie Corporation states that "Our public schools leak talent like a sieve." Currently, we can expect 30 to 50% of our beginning teachers to leave the field within five years. There are other reasons contributing to the need for 2.5 million more teachers by the end of the decade, but the role of the community colleges in solving this dilemma is of critical importance. Santa Monica College, with the establishment of an active Department of Education can help to mitigate the desperate need for teachers.

Rather than hoping that those who drift into teacher preparation at SMC will eventually succeed in society's most challenging classrooms, our vision is to create a viable pathway to the classroom. Our students will emerge well-grounded in coursework that will assist in developing the knowledge, skill and attitude of a prospective candidate for upper division work. We will begin by identifying and recruiting prospective teachers from local high school future teacher clubs, working paraprofessionals employed in neighboring school districts, entering SMC freshmen, and interested students already enrolled at SMC. We also recognize that in establishing educational pathways to teaching, we are joining those community colleges that have found that the transfer rate increases with the addition of teacher preparation programs.

On campus recruitment

The "Epicenter"

SMC seek to establish and maintain a centrally-located teacher center where information and personnel will be available to support, mentor, counsel and guide future teachers, as they begin to tackle the maze of coursework, upper division application process and requirements, credentialing mandates, and financial aid availability that lies ahead.

Education 1: Teacher Preparation: Foundations of American Education 3 credits

This course will be field tested this Spring 2004.

This course investigates the social and political foundations of education. It reviews the American educational system and its evolution from predominately rural to an urban and multicultural system. Students will be required to observe, in person, and document, electronically, routine classroom activities at various grade levels throughout the semester.

Education 2: Teacher Preparation Field Experience

This course introduces various learning styles, tutorial strategies, and techniques discusses selected problems encountered by those rendering tutorial assistance, and acquaints students with State standards which should or must be demonstrated at various grade levels. The student is assigned supervised field experience as a reading/math tutor in an approved educational setting, kindergarten through high school.

*These courses will not only provide an orientation to the classroom, but will allow a student, early on, to test his/her commitment and fitness as a candidate for upper division teacher preparation programs and eventually “teaching” itself

Other avenues to prospective teacher recruitment

The Teaching Assistant Certificate

Coursework for paraprofessionals has been mandated by the “Leave No Child Behind” Act to include 60 hours of coursework. While districts are scrambling to define the specific requirements of this mandate, SMC can be developing a certificate that would include our ECE interventionist certificate and lead to an Associates Degree.

*There are 8,000 paraprofessionals in need of coursework in LAUSD, alone!

*90% of teachers who began teacher training as paraprofessionals remain in the classroom for five years as compared to a 40% drop out rate of those who were never paraprofessionals in the field.

Dual enrollment of highly motivated high school students

Students who have shown interest in teaching as a career and have above average grades can enroll in our Education courses. They would also be identified and invited to our Future Teacher Club events. The outcome for SMC would be a more committed and better prepared freshmen class.

Partnerships with four-year teacher preparation institutions

These partnerships would go beyond articulation to eventually forge agreements that would allow a seamless blending of SMC educational program with upper division teacher preparation programs.

The initial partnerships would establish SMC as a viable professional component of the larger system of quality teacher preparation institutions and would smooth the way for better articulation agreements, blended courses, onsite/satellite upper division courses and more courses that transfer.

Students eventually could even complete work on their Bachelors Degree without relocating to another campus. For those weekend/ evening students whose family and financial responsibilities preclude them from attending other colleges and universities, this would allow them to pace their work and still enter the teaching profession.

HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, 2004

Many health care companies throughout the nation are in desperate need to find skilled nursing personnel to deliver quality health care services. Recent reports from the American Hospital Association released in June notes 168,000 unfilled hospital positions nationwide; 126,000 are for nurses. According to recent statistics, another 450,000 nurses may be needed to meet employment demands by the year 2008. These statistics reflect the critical situation of the entire health care industry in the United States. Many health care professionals attribute factors such as an aging nurse population, an aging patient population with greater medical needs, low numbers of nursing students, poor working conditions, wider career options for women, and wider job options for nurses. Unless formal efforts are designed and implemented on a large scale, the industry as a whole is doomed with the eventual victim of the poor situation being the general public.

SMC recognizes the current situation of the health care industry and strives to provide support in identifying and developing qualified nurses for the local area. In the past few years, we have increased our focus and efforts to establishing a stronger presence within the local health care industry to address the shortage and to provide assistance from an educational perspective. In collaboration with local health care providers, we have expanded our training services to meet their workforce development and training needs while increasing our ability to offer high-quality education.

Many people have turned to SMC to develop their skills allowing them to competitively pursue jobs at local hospitals and health care providers. SMC's ability to secure local, state, and federal training funds has helped us to offer skill training at cost-effective levels. In many situations, tuition for participants who meet the eligibility guidelines of our funding sources is subsidized along with necessary books and supplies. In lieu of the state budget crisis that has affected tuition rates throughout California, these funding sources have allowed many students to enter our health care programs without having to suffer from the rising costs of tuition, books, and supplies.

SMC has benefited from increased enrollments and positive increases in graduation ratings in its nursing program. The partnerships with local hospitals have also allowed our students to gain access to state-of-the-art facilities and equipment which enhances SMC's ability to deliver high-quality educational services. Additionally, our efforts have resulted in the opportunities for additional funding streams which support and offset costs to the institution's general fund. This type of regionalized collaboration has allowed SMC to become a viable alternative for training new nurses and addressing the personnel shortages within the health care field.

SMC is currently working with the following health care providers to meet their employee skills training and new hire needs:

Los Robles Hospital	Cedars-Sinai Medical Center	UCLA Medical Center
Kaiser Permanente Hospital (Sunset)	St. John's Hospital	Pacifica Hospital of the Valley
Golden State Health Center	Kaiser Permanente Hospital (West LA)	La Veta Health Center

Training funds solidified for the current program year includes Employment Training Panel (ETP), Workforce Investment Act (WIA), State Nurse Workforce Initiatives, and WIA-set aside Business Service Model funds (pending for March 2004). These funds allow SMC to offer programs and services that assist unemployed individuals in learning the skills necessary to become certified nursing assistants, EKG technicians, registered nurses, etc. We work collaboratively with local One-Stop Centers to identify candidates for our programs as well as leverage support services that assist toward successful completion of training. These relationships coupled with our strong collaboration with local health care providers have resulted in many people entering as well as progressing within the health care industry.

President Bush will be proposing the availability of \$150 million for colleges to develop job training program toward high growth industries such as the health care field. As a result of our formal partnerships with local hospitals and health care providers coupled with efforts in developing a service system to meet their continual employment and training needs, SMC is well positioned to respond to any request for proposal for these new funds.