

Palo Verde Community College District

Comprehensive Educational Planning Project

June/July 2024 Update

The Palo Verde Community College District continued its work to develop the Comprehensive Educational Plan 2025-2033. Higher Education Consultants, Dr. Lori Bennett and Ms. Nga Pham, were engaged by the District to facilitate the Comprehensive Educational Plan (CEP) development process, provide research and technical support, and prepare a draft of the new eight-year plan. The CEP development process is a critical part of the College integrated planning process.

Clint Cowden, Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Instruction and Student Services, and Sarah Frid, Business Management Instructor and Academic Senate President, serve as co-chairs of the ad hoc CEP Task Force. Diana Navarro, Administrative Assistant to the VP of Instruction and Student Services, serves as the logistics coordinator and will provide resource support for the CEP Task Force. The Task Force includes a dedicated group of faculty, classified professionals, administrators, and community members.

During June and July, the consultants continued to work on the first stage of the project – Step One: *Prepare and Discover*. The CEP project team spent this time preparing for the college and community focus groups that will be held throughout the Fall and the research consultant began conducting internal and external environmental scans.

Step Two: *Analyze, Interpret, and Reflect* will begin in August and continue over the next several months. During this stage, the consultants analyze and share the scan data with the Task Force. Through their own analysis and group discussions, the Task Force members will spend time interpreting the data, considering statewide and local trends and initiatives, and reflecting on the challenges and opportunities that will inform development of the new Strategic Goals.

A draft of the Comprehensive Educational Plan will be completed in March, 2025. College review and Board of Trustees review/approval will be conducted between April and July, 2025. The new plan will then be ready for collegewide implementation in August, 2025.

The following list of activities took place during the months of June and July.

June/July Project Activities

- Clint Cowden worked with others to develop a diverse list of community members to invite to the community focus group sessions.
- Diana Navarro began organizing the Focus Group sessions.
- Alma Correa and Nga Pham, research consultant, continued to work collaboratively to develop data dashboards to support the internal data scan process. Nga also began the external scan analysis.
- Alma Correa updated the College Planning webpage and developed the CEP webpage with assistance from IT staff.
- Lori Bennett, consultant, prepared for the CEP Task Force kick-off meeting; conducted state-level initiative and regional workforce trend analysis; and provided technical support for the focus groups and CEP webpage.

The four stages of the project, and their respective timelines, are outlined below.

Project Steps and Timeline

The project's four steps and timeline are as follows:

- Step 1 – Prepare and Discover (May – Nov 2024)
- Step 2 – Analyze, Interpret, and Reflect (Aug 2024 – Feb 2025)
- Step 3 – Innovate, Aspire, and Set Goals (Feb – Mar 2025)
- Step 4 – College Review and Board Approval (Apr – July 2025)

Each month, a brief update will be posted to the CEP webpage to keep everyone apprised of the project's activities and progress. A brief Project Overview, monthly Task Force agendas, and other documents from the project can also be found there. The August Update will be posted in early September.