

# Chapter 14

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## *Summary and a Look to the Future*



### **REFLECTING ON THE SELF-STUDY PROCESS**

Since the last NCA Self-Study Report in 1992, under the leadership of the President and Deans, the faculty and staff have worked together diligently to continue to provide our students and community the best possible educational programs and services. Every effort has been made to address the concerns of the last visiting team in a sincere desire to improve, and we are confident that we have succeeded despite the difficult circumstances we have faced as a developing campus.

Having to celebrate our tenth anniversary as a college without the new buildings we had been anticipating since the campus opened a decade ago was a challenge for us and our service community. Nevertheless, after two years of thoughtful reflection, evaluation, and planning, we look forward to the 1996 NCA Visitation which will provide us the opportunity to showcase our accomplishments, our innovative and comprehensive instructional and co-curricular programs and support services, and to receive objective feedback that will help us continue to improve as we prepare to grow and expand into the twenty-first century.

### **SUMMARY OF COLLEGE STRENGTHS AND CHALLENGES**

Our campus-wide Self-Study has given us the opportunity to identify many strengths and accomplishments that have resulted in the overall excellence of Chandler-Gilbert Community College programs and services.

## **Strengths**

- The college programs, services, and learning environment are student-centered.
- CGCC faculty and staff demonstrate a high level of professionalism, competence, and dedication to students.
- Within all levels of the college, cooperative working relationships exist between administrators, faculty, managers, staff, and students, which result in a very positive esprit de corps.
- Faculty work in an environment in which they feel well supported by administrators, professional growth opportunities, and other support services, which ultimately results in student achievement and success.
- The climate for teaching and learning is conducive to risk taking, innovation, and change.
- Faculty and staff have access to and make effective use of technology.
- Existing facilities are well-utilized.
- Resources are beginning to increase and space is becoming available to expand programs and services to meet the diverse and demanding needs of students.
- Many campus employees live, work, and are actively involved in the CGCC service community. The result is strong support for the community by CGCC employees, and reciprocal support for the college by the community.
- The new extension sites at the Williams and Sun Lakes Education Centers provide exciting opportunities for growth and new partnerships.
- There is a willingness to respond to challenges and to change as the need arises.

Although we take great pride in the excellent variety of educational programs and services we offer CGCC students, we know we must also identify and actively face the challenges ahead in order to maintain that quality.

## **Challenges**

- It will remain a challenge to keep up with the ever-growing and changing needs of the dynamic and diverse communities we serve.
- A disproportionate reliance on part-time faculty and staff creates challenges in quality control, program development, staff training and coordination, and communication.
- Limited resources (physical, human, and financial) make it difficult to

respond to the diverse and increasing needs of students, community members, and employees.

- There is a need for timely internal and external communication regarding changes in new and existing programs and services, and the need will become even greater as we continue to grow.
- Services, facilities, and programs for physically disabled and learning disabled student populations need to be improved and expanded as we grow.
- Employee and community perceptions indicate that Maricopa Community College District administration and Governing Board are not responsive enough to Chandler-Gilbert Community College and the unique needs of the diverse and dynamic Southeast Valley communities, which have been and will continue to be some of the fastest growing communities in the nation.

## **THE FUTURE OF CGCC**

The future of CGCC looks bright as we plan and prepare to open and expand new facilities and programs to meet the needs of the rapidly changing and diverse local and global communities in which we live and serve.

### **Instructional Programs**

Even without new construction, we have been able to increase our enrollment and offer additional instructional programs, non-credit courses, sections of general education classes, and learning assistance and support services by adopting a six-day schedule with a community hour, reconfiguring existing space, and expanding to facilities at the Williams and Sun Lakes Education Centers. Program and curriculum planning and review will continue at the district, campus, division, and department levels as we prepare for the opening of new buildings and services at all three of the CGCC sites over the next decade.

### **Expansion of Services for Students**

As we grow, there are plans to continue to develop services that will support the diverse students who attend CGCC. Improvements for physically challenged and learning disabled students are planned in the near future; development of athletics and other programs will build gradually.

### **New Partnerships for Academic, Occupational, and Special Programs**

New and continuing partnerships with institutions such as Arizona State University and the University of North Dakota, as well as with businesses, such as Intel and America West, will help us to improve and expand our occupational and academic programs, as well as to share resources and services.

Continued and expanded partnerships with schools and community agencies, for examples the Chandler and Gilbert School Districts, the Chandler Regional Hospital, the Chandler Public Library, the Boys and Girls Clubs of the East Valley, the Gila River Indian Community, and the Town of Gilbert, to name just a few, will help us to provide relevant programs and services to prepare students to be successful life-long learners and community members.

New and continued internal and external grant support, like our PEP grant for building integrated learning communities and our National Science Foundation grant to prepare young girls from local schools for careers in science, engineering, and technology, will provide us the additional resources necessary to remain innovative and prepare students to be problem solvers in the next century.

### **Innovation in Technology**

The new Apollo project will allow us to integrate and expand the present computer systems for academic support and student services on our campus and throughout the district. In addition, Apollo will provide computer upgrades for every full time employee to be able to access and implement new software applications as we move into even higher levels of technological advancement.

### **Sun Lakes Education Center**

The college looks forward to the development of the Sun Lakes Education Center to serve the retirement community at Sun Lakes and the surrounding communities, including the expanding Ocotillo housing development.

### **Williams Education Center**

Additional space at the Williams Education Center has allowed us to extend our programs and services and will continue to do so in the future. The expansion of the aviation programs at the Williams Education Center, along with the development of the Semiconductor Manufacturing Technology program are already underway. CGCC looks forward to the new partnership with Arizona State University East, particularly in regard to developing 2+2 partnership degree programs for students in a variety of majors.

### **Main Campus Expansion**

Preparation for the expansion of buildings, services, and programs on the main campus will require careful planning and hard work. Passing an additional bond in the not so distant future will be necessary in order to build out the next phase of the main campus, which will include an occupational classroom building, a performing arts center, and a physical education building, as well as additions to the student center, library, physical plant, and parking facilities. CGCC employees embrace the opportunity to continue developing the college in order to better serve our community.

CGCC is proud to be part of the financially sound, stable, and reputable Maricopa County Community College District. Talented and cooperative employees who are hard-working and student-centered, and strong community support will provide the foundation for our future success.

## **REQUEST FOR CONTINUED ACCREDITATION**

Currently, Chandler-Gilbert Community College is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. This Self-Study Report serves as our application for continued accreditation. For a decade we have provided quality educational programs and services for our students and community, and we are confident that we will continue to provide that same quality and more as we begin a new decade of growth and excellence. Therefore, CGCC is requesting a 10-year accreditation and that the next comprehensive evaluation be scheduled for the academic year 2006-2007. The college also requests that no prior Commission approval be required for additional courses and programs offered by CGCC within the MCCCDC district as we continue to expand during this next period of accreditation by the North Central Association.

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