2006 EDUCATION MASTER PLAN - TOP 10 RECOMMENDED INITIATIVES

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1. Strengthen Existing Programs. All programs have the opportunity to grow and increase enrollments through space augmentations, curricular enhancements, changes in scheduling, alternative modes of delivery, creation of new classes that are aligned to labor market trends and addition of classes to off-site locations.

2. Develop New Programs. Consider developing and bringing on-line 1-3 new programs each year for the next five years (i.e., Freshman Year Experience, Home Health Aid and Environmental Technology) in response to community and market demands. These programs have been identified as being critical to student success, as having few competitors in the area, are connected to local and regional current labor market demands and have links to existing programs at Skyline.

3. Increase Distance Learning Offerings. In response to the growing population of commuter, part-time, techno-savvy students who are generally too busy to attend college more than once or twice a week, the Education Master Plan recommends that Skyline increase the number of classes offered using non-traditional modes of delivery. This includes the development of classes that could be offered via the Internet and hybrid modes. In particular, those courses which fall within general education, the sciences and developmental or pre-requisite courses.

4. Collaborate With K-12. Continue to collaborate with K-12 and focus on outreach efforts that will increase enrollments of first-time freshman from Skyline's feeder high schools. This includes, but is not limited to strategies for middle school and bridge programs, as well as conducting classes at the high schools for concurrently enrolled students and administering placement and orientation services.

5. Increase Marketing And Outreach. Competition, declining enrollments and limited local growth point to the need for aggressive and continuous promotions of the college programs, services and benefits. This includes marketing and outreach activities that are both targeted at growth population segments in the county (i.e., Hispanics), as well as general activities that reach a broader audience.

6. Support Use of Outcome Data. More and more planning and program decisions are being supported through data and evidence. This trend needs to continue as the college moves forward in its facilities and program planning efforts. The Education Master Plan recommends that the college provide the necessary support to establish readily accessible information and data systems that are available internally as well as externally.

7. Increase Campus Internationalization. Given the diversity of the Bay Area, the global economy in which knowledge of cross-cultural communications are an asset, and Skyline's existing internationally-focused programs, the college is well-positioned to fully internationalize. This should encompass a linking and expansion of a number of programs, services, activities and centers (e.g., CITD, International Programs and Learning Communities like Puente and MESA) to create powerful synergy for the future.

8. Offer Non-Credit and Not-for Credit Courses. Skyline currently does not offer non-credit or not-for-credit courses. These may be course offerings that the community would favor, particularly in the basic skills areas, in contract training for business and industry and for the senior population. The Education Master Plan recommends that the college consider developing programs and courses in these areas.

9. Increase Courses/Programs for Under-Prepared Students. With the new high school exit exam and an influx of English-as-a-second language speakers in the county, Skyline should witness an increase in basic skills enrollments. The Education Master Plan recommends that the college develop strategies for capturing this segment of the population by partnering with local K-12 districts to address the preparation and graduation concerns as a result of the high school exit exam and by offering additional courses in the basic skills areas.

10. Seek New Revenue Sources. With the current state of funding and increasing costs for managing a college, it has become increasingly difficult to meet financial needs. Particularly the cost of developing and implementing new programs and services. The Education Master Plan recommends that the college look at new ways to generate revenue (i.e., grants, fundraising and creative use of existing property) and to increase support from external sources.