

PRAC PRESENTATION STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND ADVOCACY

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GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Equity and excellence cannot be divided.

--Ernest L. Boyer

PRAC Guiding Principles

- All recommendations must be *student centric*, meaning that they should not only negatively impact the least number of students possible, but also consider how we can better help as many students as possible reach their educational goals, whether by changing what we do or how we do it.
- All recommendations must be *equity-minded*, meaning that they should call attention to patterns of inequity in student outcomes by critically reassessing our practices, policies, and structures and recognizing stereotypes that harm student success.
- All recommendations must be *anti-racist*, meaning that they should produce or sustain racial equity in educational outcomes.
- All recommendations must focus on *protecting and improving teaching and learning* by illustrating efforts to employ cogent best practices and innovation.
- All recommendations must acknowledge that as a community college we are *responsive to our diverse community*, but cannot be all things to all people all the time so we must find creative ways to stay true to our mission.
- All recommendations must be made with a *consideration of their impact on the environment* and how intentional choices might reduce that impact while being maintained over time.

AREA OVERVIEW

The true measure of our success will be the number of people touched and transformed by our success.

--Angela Ahrendts

Who We Are and What We Offer...

The Student Activities and Advocacy Office (SAA) is the primary source of information about:

- Associated Students of the College of Marin (ASCOM) – Student Government
- College success, life skills, equity and social justice, and leadership programs and workshops
- Marin County and Bay Area community resources and services
- Basic needs coordination and support
- Standards of Student Conduct
- Student clubs
- Welcome Week

SAA is committed to facilitating learning that complements students' academic goals, while cultivating opportunities to empower and strengthen student participation in the life, governance, and success of the College.

We aim to provide learning that supports and reflects our diverse student population. Through active engagement in campus activities and the student conduct process, students will enhance their critical thinking and communications skills, their social, cultural, and intellectual interactions, as well as, better understand their responsibility for oneself and the community.

Staff:

4 FTE

- Administrator – Director
- Confidential – Student Conduct Officer
- Classified
 - Activities and Equity Coordinator
 - Administrative Assistant

COLLEGE OF MARIN MISSION, STRATEGIC PLAN, AND EMP

Area Overview Continued

- Equity as the foundation and center
 - Preparation for transfer
 - Associate degrees and certificates
 - CTE
 - Basic skills improvement
 - ESL
 - Lifelong learning
 - Community and cultural enrichment

Strategic Plan and EMP

- Reduce barriers...create a welcoming atmosphere with increased human contact. (Student Access and Success, Goal 1)
- Decrease towards elimination of existing racial equity gaps at the college. (Equity, Goal 1)
- ...be a leader in promoting equity throughout the county. (Equity, Goal 3)

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Leadership is the art of accomplishing more than the science of management says is possible.

--Colin Powell

Student Activities and Advocacy

Basic Needs Support and Staffing State allocation

- Total:\$ 173,452 (21-22)
 - Dedicated to delivery of services and staffing
 - SAA search in progress for Basic Needs Coordinator

Technology Cost Overview

Funded through the COVID relief funds since March 2020, which will expire as we return to "regular" in-person operations.

*No funding line dedicated for when technology supply depletes.

- Laptop = \$550/unit
 - 50-100 purchased at a time.
- Hotspot = \$50/unit
 - 50-100 purchased at a time.

THE NATIONAL DATA

- Basic Needs Definition: The Hope Center... defines basic needs insecurity as **lacking access to resources for food, housing, health care, technology, transportation, personal hygiene and childcare.**
 - #RealCollege2021 Report
 - Nearly **60% of community college students experienced basic needs insecurity.**
 - More than **70%** have experienced **emotional distress, stress and/or anxiety** due to lack of basic needs.
- Indigenous, Black, American Indian and Alaska Native students at two- and four-year institutions were 16 to 21 percent more likely to experience basic needs insecurities than white students.
- Nearly two-thirds of students who identified as LGBTQ reported experiencing basic needs insecurities, according to the report.
- Since its onset, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated basic needs insecurity among college students, according to the report. More than one-third of students who were employed prior to the pandemic reported losing their jobs since its onset. Students of color were more likely to experience job losses than white students, according to the report.

THE LANDSCAPE OF BASIC NEEDS AT COM

- WHERE WE ARE AND WHAT WE NEED -

- COM Care System - Primary reporting system to understand student crisis and needs.
 - Repurposed in March 2020 due to Shelter In Place.
 - With return to in-person instruction in spring 2022, COM Care is returning to the original purpose for student support and intervention.
- Technology
 - In summer 2021, technology lending moved to the Library.
 - A regular need each semester.
- Food access
 - In spring 2022, food access returned to in person with the COM Cupboard offerings - Wednesday healthy food distribution, KTD Health Center food pantry, IVC SAA food pantry.
 - 130-150 students served weekly.
- Mental health service requests and reports on the rise.

BASIC NEEDS - TECHNOLOGY

- Since January 2022 there have been 747 online request forms submitted.
 - NOTE: Not all students who requested a device picked them up.
- There are currently 395 laptops checked out.
- There are currently 194 hotspots checked out.
- Most recent purchase of laptops and hotspots - January 2022.

PROGRAM DISCUSSIONS & DIRECTIONS

Change is hard because people overestimate the value of what they have—and underestimate the value of what they may gain by giving that up.

--James Belasco & Ralph Stayer

Move from transactional to transformational.

Equity Planning Session, February 2022

- An addition of a part-time Basic Needs Coordinator will support the services that address the challenges students are facing.
- The partnership with Marin/SF Food bank has provided a weekly sustainable food program for students.
- Move towards proactive planning and service delivery, versus reactive practices.
- COM Care - students feel cared for and seen during the toughest moments.



THE STUDENT VOICE AND EXPERIENCE

- *“I am writing to express my deep appreciation about sending an announcement about COM Supplemental Assistance Grant the other day. I went ahead and applied, and I was reward! Not only it will help with some medical bills for my sick mother, it is also will help me to get some mental support during this hard time which simultaneously will help me to continue to do well at the college, and not to mention the awal live in a pretty hard situation regarding my family. The environment is toxic and I just want to thank you for always trying to help me one way or another. With another semester now started, I still have my rented laptop from last semester...and just want to thank you for helping me through these hard times. I also wanted to ask if there were any possibilities for a gift card or emergency aid?”*
- *I’m reaching out for support for my family Covid-19 has been had for all of us and still many are suffering. At this time my financial situation has just been mentally draining, not working and looking gainful employment has been difficult. I haven’t been fortunate to find any work, to help with get clothing for my children for school which starts next week, paying other out of pocket expense for medicine, and essential needs. School will be starting and I’m not still prepared. I’ve been serviced a 15-day notice on rent so I’m very overwhelmed. I’m hoping with the help from school both my children and myself can start school knowing some of our worries and essential needs are somewhat on the way of being handled. My family and I will be so grateful for any help given.*

REQUEST

REQUEST: Technology funding

We must be proactive and center the needs of our most marginalized students.

- Continually develop holistic and social justice centered outreach and support practices.
- The need for food access is being met.
- Mental health is increasingly being addressed and supported.
- The hiring of a part-time Basic Needs Coordinator is underway to expand support and services.
- Technology, however, is still a need and there is no sustained funding model when the supply decreases and requests arise.

Budget proposed: \$150,000

- ❖ **Based on purchase of 150 laptops and hotspots annually**
- ❖ **Recommendation:** a portion of the Technology Fee offset the overall cost.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION

The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking.

--Albert Einstein