

All External Forums – 10/30/2018 & 11/01/2018

Dr Coon gave a PowerPoint presentation about the planning process, the focus areas and the possible themes that arose from the environmental scan discussions and the external focus groups that were held during the months of September and October.

Focus Areas that emerged from all the discussions

- Cost of living/Lack of affordable housing
- Commuting workforce
- Large older adult population in Marin
- Marin county's lack of diversity and racial/ethnic & economic inequality
- High school students & perception of CC VS its' value
- Highly educated Marin population
- State/chancellor's office priorities and directives
- Transportation
- Slow or no population growth in Marin
- Marin employment
- SRJC and CCSF

Emerging Themes

- Pathways/Student Success
- Career-Technical Ed/Workforce
- Diversity/Equity
- IVC
- Community Responsiveness

KTD External Forum

Transportation to IVC is difficult. The Novato community and people living in northern Marin are very dedicated to IVC. Computers in the classrooms at IVC are not working. Possibility of more transfer classes at IVC and housing at IVC? Starting some new programs there including partnerships with Sonoma State for BA in Liberal Arts and a Teacher Credentialing program.

IVC External Forum

What technology programs are in place or envisioned for CTE? Makerspace, VR and VR integration with other CTE programs such as welding. VR program might be premature and better use of resources to focus on basic and intermediate computer skills such as coding, web development and app development. There are jobs available in those fields right away. Transfer program seen as very important and should be a major area of focus. More transfer classes should be offered at

IVC. CTE, transfer program, degree classes and basic skills should be offered on both campuses. Housing should not be a priority for COM.

Environmental sustainability and Environmental science classes should be a priority. Possible partnership with SFSU on Marine Biology program including the Romberg Center in Tiburon and revitalizing the Marine Biology lab in Bolinas. Seen as an area where we can promote equity for women. Possible two year transfer program with SFSU. Partnership with CA Naturalist Certification program.

Another priority was a relationship with Novato Unified School District where high school students spend a half day at COM and a half day at their own high school. Would help to capture northern Marin students and get them connected to COM.

Also establishing partnerships with trade groups to teach trade jobs. Would help get students into higher paying union scale jobs sooner. It was noted that we have a new partnership with Canal Alliance and Marin Builders Group called E2C (Education to Careers) for a certificate program for the construction trades. Also working with MCOE on this same issue.

Community Ed – very positive program. Especially the “Tech for Life” classes. Very hands-on, user oriented, classes that focus on using phones, email, social media etc. People would like to see that expanded both in the scope of the classes and offered on both campuses.

Farm to Table (hospitality program), seen as a plus, but it is not a true culinary program. Very expensive to start a true culinary program. Demo kitchen seen as a plus for the hospitality program. It was noted that there are new vending machines at IVC for food options and the response so far was positive.

Diversity/Equity – capture more high school students who cannot afford a 4-year college. More promotion of COM as a good value.

Focus on Com Ed – more classes for students in the 80 - 90-year range. Possible degree pathways for older adults who have retired from one field and may now wish to get another degree more for their own personal enrichment and interest. Offering Credit classes and auditing for classes that people wish to take repeatedly.

Utilizing the open space available at IVC through hiking, PAR course, bocce ball courts, pickleball court or 9-hole golf course.

It was also noted how much better the campus is looking after removing dead trees and trimming many of the other ones.