

College of Marin Focus Group with K-12 Partners 10/11/2018 at Kentfield campus

14 principals and counselors from Marin K-12 schools attended. COM Mission & Values were posted on the big screen along with the following questions asked, in order of asking:

- In a quick phrase, what describes COM? What words or images occur to you when you think of this College?
- What does COM do well?
- What should COM improve?
- What new opportunities do you see that COM should engage in?

Quick Phrases:

Community responsive education

Flexible

Accessibility & opportunity

Community college, accessible and attainable

Personalized, flexible, inclusive, accessible

Community, AA degrees

Tremendous opportunity due to a vast array of programs available to our students & throughout our community

Viable options for students to continue their education, accessible

Oriented to support transfer to a four year and career objectives

A stepping stone

Stepping stone to a four-year university

Bridge from high school to help prepare students for the workforce and/or four year

University of Kentfield

Opportunity to gain job skills/certification

Drake would be interested in a health career connection with our biomed program

Small & supportive school

Image of a bucolic campus

Does Well

Positive and supportive relationships with high schools

Reaching out to local high schools

Outreach to local high schools

Outreach to high schools

Summer bridge – partner with high schools

COMPASS – example of high school/college collaboration
educational outreach

Community outreach
Community outreach and partnerships
partnership development,

Support students with learning differences
Student support (special ed, counseling)
Thoughtful partnerships with our underserved students – create opportunities
Offer support for all students
Student support
Support English language learners
Very inclusive of adult learners

Prepare students to finish at a four-year university
prepare students to transfer to a four-year university
Prepare our students
Wants to make transition to college doable for students
prepares students for university

Program variety
Diversity of programs
Offers a wide array of courses
Providing opportunities for high school students to take college courses
Co-enrolled student offerings
Training for high demand jobs
Community education

Responds to needs well
Flexible and responsive
Flexibility

Willingness to offer classes at high schools

Many supporters, opportunities

Informs us of when we need to improve (this relates to providing them data on their students
who enroll at COM)

Improvements Needed

Retention of Latino students

Stronger systems of support for at-risk and students of color

Outreach to Latino families

Expand the career pathways program, i.e. hospitality, tech industry, etc.

More pathways program positions – many kids want it

Continue to improve access to college pathways for undocumented youth & adults

Increase # of pathways

Transportation to IVC

Transportation challenges for student living in San Rafael

Access/visibility for West Marin schools

Providing greater opportunity for students to access courses (satellite?)

Communication with our teachers who are teaching co-enrolled classes

More opportunities for newcomer students

Articulation with district? Specifically, math and English (See Discussion for more information)

Innovative teaching strategies

Opportunities for COM

Expansion of CTE program, participation by high school students, more flexible scheduling so high school students can participate. High school seniors especially could benefit from the program if schedules could permit. Possible to hold in different locations?

Summer Bridge – fabulous program but kids don't always want to give up their summer vacation. Possible "Fall Bridge?" Orientation of some sort through the first semester?

Image of COM VS SRJC. SRJC seen as "better school." Why do they think that? Explore CTE programs at SRJC and possibly replicate here. Better marketing of COM to showcase what we have here.

Innovative education – COM could lead in different approaches to teaching math/english to accommodate different learning styles, evaluate using competency-based or other approaches instead of grades.

Student mentors from COM return to their high school to mentor others coming along, eventually enrolling at COM. Students supporting each other

Have students at or near completion return to their high school to tell their stories, outline the journey. Currently there are 10 student ambassadors, 3 at San Rafael high who participate in Transfer Express Workshops in fall/spring who return to high school to tell their story and mentor new students. Best to time it when students are ready to hear it, “Student Narrative” very powerful. There is good collaboration between COM and SR High.

Walk students through the online application process which can be challenging for first gen students

Possible name change at IVC? “Indian” may put people off and make them uncomfortable.

Discussion Points

High schools want to monitor progress of students at COM. They would like improved feedback on how their students do at COM, especially completion of either a degree or certificate. Right now they only get placement data. Do they complete or drop out? LatinX and African American especially.

Also wants to track dual enrollment units to incorporate into their transcripts. High schools use AERIES system – to track admission data.

CALPASS database system – tracks high school data into CC, state university. Most Marin County high schools don’t put their data into this system, so not very useful.

Stronger systems to support students of color, like case management. Put relationships in place before students get to COM so they know someone who can help them when they get here, in addition to their counselor.

Transportation challenges – IVC in particular. Transit from central Marin/San Rafael to IVC is lacking. Difficult to get from Canal district to SR Transit Center to access transit—takes a long time to get to transit center.

Articulation with district – especially math and english. High school teachers want a better sense of needed skills to succeed at COM.

AB705 –Multiple Measures impacts testing, placement and support of students to ensure their success. Summer Bridge addresses review of math and english skills to help prepare students for college classes.