Academic Affairs Division of the Chancellor’s Office
Holds First Professional Development Summit

The Academic Affairs Division, in response to the Student Success task Force Recommendations and as a part of the Student Success Initiative, formed an advisory committee to address the tasks associated with revitalizing and re-envisioning professional development. The committee consisted of 31 representatives from 25 organizations from all segments of the system; faculty, administration, and staff. The committee met for 2 days in Pomona at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona’s Kellogg West Conference Center, September 12 and 13, 2012. There are two subsequent virtual meetings planned, one on October 26, the second will take place in November (date TBD) to follow up on the work initiated in the summit in September.

The purpose of the summit was to discuss a strategic and coordinated initiative for faculty, staff, and administrators to obtain/improve the skills and abilities needed to ensure students successes in the California Community College System.

The focus of the summit was to:

1. Develop a professional development vision statement for the California Community College System that could be adopted by the Board of Governors as a policy direction for the System.
2. Discuss establishing a resource to identify, summarize, review, and assess existing professional development programs and resources in the California Community College System.
3. Develop further recommendations on policies and programs related to professional development.
4. Document the Professional Development Committee discussions at the summit.
5. Develop a process for gathering California Community College System feedback on the recommendations proposed by the Professional Development Committee.

Summary of the Professional Development Summit

The committee completed initial work on a vision statement for the system and is now in the process of vetting that statement with the 25 organizations to gather feedback and reactions. The feedback will be discuss and the vision statement finalized at it October 26th meeting. The final statement will be forwarded to the Chancellor’s Office for discussion by the Board of Governors.

In addition to the vision statement, the committee discussed, in detail, possible modifications to the “Flexible Calendar Program”, what the Chancellor’s Office can do to move professional development forward in the CCC System and the development of a website to house the multiple professional development resources available to the CCC System.
The committee formed three (3) workgroups that will meet over the next 60 days to further discuss the various elements that were raised on the above topics at the summit. Those elements are summarized below:

Recommendations for Flex Calendar Modifications:

- Funding Issues and Ideas
- Inclusiveness of Flex
- Shared Governance and Professional Development
- Leadership for Professional Development
- Standards for Professional Development
- What we call “Flex”
- Priorities of Flex Activities

Recommendations for the Chancellor’s Office in moving forward:

- Clear Direction from State Chancellor’s Office to CEOs (College/District Presidents, Superintendents, and Chancellors)
- Funding Ideas
- Cost-Saving Ideas
- Regional Coordination (by State Chancellor’s Office)
- Standards for Professional Development (clearly communicated by Chancellor’s Office)
- Priorities of Flex Activities
- Statewide Professional Development Tracking Database

Recommendations for a central hosting website:

- Affiliated with the Chancellor’s Office brand
- House a location where colleges could go to identify available resources
- Multiple resources under one roof
- Portal to other websites and resources
- Review appropriate studies and other literature
- Access to information and planning/evaluation tools

The final outcomes and recommendations of the committee will be completed in December of 2012, and will then be submitted to the Chancellor’s Office.