Importance of Local Associate Degrees

Dr. Cynthia Napoli-Abella Reiss, West Valley College

Dr. Daniel Keller, Dean of Curriculum, Los Angeles Community College District

Dr. Kim Harrell, Dean of Careers & Technology Cosumnes River College

Overview of This Presentation

- Mission of CCCs
- Associate Degrees and General Education
- ❖ Associate Degrees for Transfer
- **❖** Associate CTE Degrees
- Implications of Guided Pathways
- Future of Local Associate Degrees

The mission of the CCC (§66010.4) is to...

- Offer academic and vocational instruction at the lower division...These institutions may grant the associate in arts and the associate in science degree.
- 2) Achieve all of the following...
 - a) Remedial instruction for those in need of it....English as a second language, adult noncredit instruction, and support services...
 - b) Adult noncredit education curricula...
 - c) Community services courses and programs...
- 3) Advance California's economic growth and global competitiveness through education, training, and services that contribute to continuous workforce improvement...
- 4) Conduct...institutional research concerning student learning and retention...

CCC Associate Degrees

- The mission of the community colleges gives CCCs the right to grant associate degrees
- Colleges have been granting associate degrees for many years
- Associate degrees from CCCs have helped students get a job, a promotion, or helped them prepare for transfer to a four year university

Requirements for Associate Degrees

- Defined in §55063 of Title 5
- * Requires the completion of:
 - ➤ At least 18 semester or 27 quarter units of study must be taken in a single discipline or related disciplines
 - Completion of a general education pattern (local, CSU GE Breadth, IGETC)
 - ➤ 60 degree applicable units
 - Demonstrate competency in mathematics and written expression

The relationship of ADTs to local degrees

- With the passage of SB 440, colleges are required to create an ADT in any area where they have an existing AA/AS degree and a TMC exists.
- However, it does not mandate (or even mention) getting rid of corresponding local degrees.

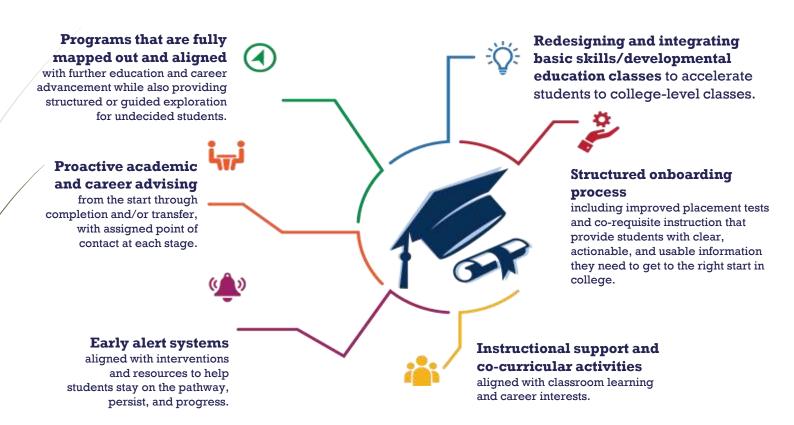
Presenter examples

- Contract education
- Non-transfer vocational degrees
- Single-institution articulation (CSU, UC, and/or private or out-of-state)
- CTE local degrees that transfer

What about Guided Pathways? How do local degrees align with Guided Pathways?

- A collaborative, integrated, and intentional approach to ensuring students meet their educational goals in a timely manner.
- Faculty are in the Lead and the Core of Guided Pathways Work.
- Local decisions to ensure effectiveness in serving unique needs of your students.

Key Elements of Guided Pathways



Discussion

* How does your college use local associate degrees (in light of SB1440)?



Prerequisites and Pathways

- Additional requirements
 - > Program prerequisites
 - > Course prerequisites (including basic skills)
 - ➤ AB 705
- Sequencing
 - > Requisite structure
 - > Scheduling (sections, terms, overlap)
- Time (and units) to completion

Local GE vs. CSU-GE/IGETC

- What's the need for GE patterns?
 - > Why a degree and not a certificate?
 - > What about out-of-state transfers?



Discussion

How does your local GE pattern compare with CSU GE/IGETC?

Do you allow all three for local degrees?



Possible disadvantages of having local degrees

- Confusion ("Which degree should I choose?")
- Resource allocation (spread too thin)
- Unit bloat (without the 60-unit limitation, local degrees can become unwieldy)
- ♦ Others?

Possible advantages of having local degrees

- Transfer customization
- Specialization and exploration
- CTE focus
- Emerging areas of study

Possible advantages of having local degrees

- Defined objective not met by another award
 - > Salary advancement, promotion
 - > Contract, service area demand
 - Advisory committee recommendations not reflected in a TMC
 - > Doesn't fit into ADT structure
- ❖ Others?

Summary

- The ability to grant associate degrees is given to CCCs by education code
- Local associate degrees have been helping students for many years
- ADTs provide new opportunities to students, but may have deficiencies that can be met by local degrees.
- If a degree is meeting the needs of students, keep it!

Thank you!

Questions?