

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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INTRADISTRICT CORRESPONDENCE

To: All Staff
From: Board of Trustees
Date: October 11, 1999
Subject: Strategic Conversation

Attached to this memo is a Summary Report of the Board's first Strategic Conversation, which was held September 28 at Cypress College. Addressing the question of how technology may be most effectively incorporated into teaching and fulfilling a variety of job responsibilities, the Strategic Conversation was entitled "Technology: Clicking on the Future."

Approximately 120 faculty, staff and students participated in a fast-paced, interactive dialogue that generated several observations and recommendations for consideration as we move ahead with the application of technology to our programs and services. Evaluations from this first Strategic Conversation were overwhelmingly positive, with many participants expressing appreciation for the opportunity to discuss this topic with trustees, colleagues, and students.

The Planning Committee is reviewing the outcome of the Strategic Conversation and determining the most effective way to use the information for planning and decision-making. The attached Summary Report, along with a complete transcript of all comments recorded by the discussion groups, will become a resource for the Board of Trustees as it considers directions for the District to take in its incorporation of technology into our instructional, service and administrative programs.

The Board is extremely enthusiastic about the response to our invitation to participate in this dialogue and about the information that we gleaned from the activity. We trust that you will find this summary report to be of interest. Also, we want to thank all of you who participated in this first of what we plan to be several Strategic Conversations between the Board, students, faculty and staff. If you were not able to join us this time, we hope this brief summary of the dialogue will spark your interest in participating in our next Strategic Conversation.

Strategic Conversation Summary Report

"Technology: Clicking on the Future"

Appearing below is a summary of the information gathered through the discussion of the two key questions included in the Strategic Conversation.

Question #1

In what ways can technology enhance instruction offered by the North Orange County Community College District?

This question asked the discussion groups to identify clusters that would group the various enhancements into some broad areas. Generally, the clusters that were identified include:

LEARNING

- ▶ Enhances our ability to address a variety of learning styles
- ▶ Builds student skills and preparation for workplace
- ▶ Appeals to students
- ▶ Improves access to information
- ▶ Reinforces learning; encourages student-initiated learning
- ▶ Encourages active learning; organizes learning
- ▶ Facilitates distance learning
- ▶ Supports electronic communication between students and with instructor

TEACHING

- ▶ Encourages alternative/innovative teaching strategies
- ▶ Employs technology in instructional delivery, i.e., virtual field trips, power point lectures
- ▶ Increases access to research data
- ▶ Offers remote teaching access
- ▶ Provides more tools for monitoring student progress; improves accountability
- ▶ Supports professional development through access to current disciplines

ADMINISTRATION

- ▶ Improves communication with faculty, district, other institutions
- ▶ Improves access to instructional and student information
- ▶ Increases sharing of information
- ▶ Facilitates program improvement
- ▶ Prepares institution for the future

STUDENT SERVICES

- ▶ Provides for online registration, interactive tutoring,
- ▶ Improves support for disabled students
- ▶ Offers electronic access to grades

Other important ideas from the discussion of Question #1 include:

- ▶ Technology presents opportunities to dramatically increase our effectiveness and to more actively engage students in the learning process
- ▶ Conferences between classes at different schools/sites could be held
- ▶ Instruction could be more personalized, individualized
- ▶ With technology, the instructor becomes a facilitator for information access rather than a source
- ▶

Question #2

How can technology help us all to do our jobs better?

This question asked the discussion groups to identify problems and challenges posed by the increased application of technology to a variety of jobs in the District. Generally, the challenges that were identified include:

EQUIPMENT

- ▶ Keeping pace with needs for hardware, software, appropriate facilities in which to use new technology, and providing Internet access to all
- ▶ Providing technical support and maintenance
- ▶ Ensuring compatibility of systems in use
- ▶ Maintaining access to computers and to all technologies in classroom

TRAINING

- ▶ Learning new technologies, programs
- ▶ Keeping technical support staff trained

ADMINISTRATION

- ▶ Maintaining funding to update and effectively utilize technology
- ▶ Updating business/administrative practices to reflect utilization of technology

- ▶ Assuring a reliable and efficient infrastructure
- ▶ Security and privacy issues
- ▶ Analysis and reporting applications
- ▶ New technology will empower individuals at all levels
- ▶ Effectively using technology to increase and improve communication
- ▶ Building an efficient e-mail system that serves both staff and students
- ▶ Incorporating evolving technologies into existing technologies
- ▶ Developing integrated District plans
- ▶ Effectively utilizing access to financial, human resource, student, state, and federal data
- ▶ Knowing when technology is the best answer, and when it is not

Other important ideas from the discussion of Question #2 include:

- ▶ Obsolete equipment should not be used to teach students
- ▶ Two separate networks should be considered--one for instruction and another for administration
- ▶ An adequate telephone system is a necessity, along with computers for faculty
- ▶ There is a need for rapid application, development and deployment of technology