



Progress Report: Woodland Community College (WCC) Education Master Plan 2022-25

Introduction

This progress report provides the 2023-24 update on Woodland Community College's (WCC) implementation of its *Education Master Plan 2022-2025*, which is centered around four key goals designed to enhance student success and institutional effectiveness. These goals guide WCC's commitment to providing high-quality education, supporting diverse student needs, aligning career programs with labor market demands, and fostering a culture of equity and inclusion.

The four goals include:

Goal 1: Provide High-Quality Academic Programs and Clear Pathways for Timely Completion of Educational Goals

Goal 2: Ensure Learning and Support to Achieve Educational and Career Goals

Goal 3: Align Career Education with Labor Market Needs

Goal 4: Foster a Culture of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice

This progress report highlights the college's progress toward achieving these goals by detailing key initiatives, accomplishments, and ongoing efforts. Through collaborative partnerships, innovative instructional delivery, and a student-centered approach, WCC is working to create equitable educational opportunities for all students, while continuously adapting to the evolving needs of its diverse community and regional workforce.

Goal 1: Provide High-Quality Academic Programs and Clear Pathways for Timely Completion of Educational Goals (YCCD 1, 3 & 7)

Objective 1.1: Development of a Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) Plan

Woodland Community College is making strides in implementing a student-centered, equity-infused Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) plan aimed at addressing the diverse needs of its community and reducing equity gaps. Significant progress includes the launch of the following initiatives:

- Fall and Spring Enrollment Campaign: Developed new brochures and ran a marketing campaign featuring student testimonials to boost enrollment.
- Eagles Signing Day: Held for the first time to celebrate student-athletes and engage the broader community.
- Eagles Small Business Market: Provided WCC student entrepreneurs an opportunity to showcase and develop their businesses.
- Pet Therapy Day: Organized in collaboration with a local animal shelter to help students de-stress and promote community service.
- HyFlex Delivery: Introduced flexible course modalities to cater to diverse student needs, helping close the equity gap in course delivery.

The SEM plan was drafted in Spring 2023 and received final approval from the college's senate and council in Fall 2023.

Objective 1.2: Strengthen Strategic Partnerships

Woodland Community College has expanded partnerships to enhance educational pathways for students. WCC has actively expanded partnerships to support educational pathways for students:

- Continued collaborations with the K-16 Collaborative and new dual enrollment agreements with Colusa High School and Cache Creek High School.
- Strengthened ties with local businesses through the Avenue M and B programs and research partnerships like MESA with UC Davis.
- In 2023-2024, expanded partnerships with regional schools, including Woodland Christian High School and Lake County's Redwood Coast Collaborative.
- In Spring 2024, WCC developed a partnership with Winters Unified School District.

Objective 1.3: Enhance Adult Education

Woodland Community College is making significant strides in advancing its adult education programs by implementing key improvements and building strategic partnerships. Progress includes:

- Improved tracking of student progress through CASAS testing.
- Strengthened partnerships with Lake County Office of Education for high school diplomas and citizenship programs.

Looking ahead, WCC plans to launch a revised HiSET curriculum, aimed at improving high school equivalency options for adult learners. Efforts are also underway to enhance ESOL services, with the recruitment of a bilingual instructor for specialized computer skills courses. These initiatives reflect WCC's commitment to offering innovative, student-centered programs that meet the diverse needs of adult learners in its service area.

Objective 1.4: Operational Improvements

Woodland Community College has made substantial progress in enhancing its operational effectiveness, focusing on improving access, efficiency, and equity across key areas.

- Translation of important information into Spanish.
- Updated academic and student services webpages for improved access.
- Streamlined Financial Aid and course enrollment processes, with updates in CCAP permission form tracking and district equity policy evaluations.

Goal 2: Ensure Learning and Support to Achieve Educational and Career Goals (YCCD 1, 2, 5, 6)

Objective 2.1: Increase Professional Development

WCC has provided a wide array of professional learning opportunities aimed at fostering a more inclusive, equitable, and effective educational environment:

- Cultural Humility Training for classified staff: This training enhances staff members' understanding of diverse cultural perspectives, helping create a more welcoming and supportive campus climate.
- Trauma-Informed Training for faculty: Faculty received training to better understand and address the impacts of trauma on students, promoting a more compassionate and supportive learning environment.
- Equity-focused professional development through ACUE cohort training: WCC continued its commitment to equity by offering the ACUE (Association of College and University Educators) training, equipping faculty with strategies to improve online learning while focusing on equity and inclusion.

These initiatives reflect WCC's dedication to fostering professional growth while promoting equity and student success across the institution.

Objective 2.2: Partnerships to Address Students' Basic Needs

WCC has significantly expanded its partnerships with nonprofits and local agencies to better support students' basic needs and enhance community engagement. Key initiatives include:

- Regular Food Distributions: WCC has established ongoing food distribution events, which have become vital resources for students facing food insecurity. These distributions are supported by donations from Walmart to Eagle's Essentials, WCC's basic needs center, and collaborations with the Yolo and Redwood Food Banks. By providing consistent access to nutritious food, WCC is addressing a critical need within its student population.
- Harvest Basket Distribution: During the Fall Open House, WCC distributed Harvest Baskets filled with essential food items to over 300 students. This event not only provided immediate assistance but also fostered community engagement by connecting students and their families to the College's resources and support services.

Objective 2.3: Increase Student Engagement

WCC continues to implement a variety of activities designed to foster a sense of community and support among students. Notable initiatives include:

- **Launch of the Men's Soccer Program:** In its inaugural competitive year, the men's soccer team not only started strong but also clinched the Bay Valley Conference Championship. This achievement has not only boosted school spirit but has also encourages greater student engagement.
- **Initiation of New Student Clubs:** WCC has introduced various new clubs, such as the Plant Club, which aims to engage students in hands-on activities related to gardening and environmental sustainability. This initiative encourages students to explore their interests and connect with like-minded peers.
- **Peer Counseling Initiatives:** The college has implemented peer counseling programs to promote mental health awareness and support among students. These initiatives empower students to seek help and guidance from their peers, fostering a supportive campus culture where students feel valued and understood.

Through these efforts, WCC is actively creating an inclusive environment that promotes student engagement, personal development, and a sense of belonging within the college community.

Objective 2.4: Pursue Grants and Collaborations

WCC is actively advancing its mission to enhance student success and foster community connections by aggressively pursuing grants and strengthening partnerships with local stakeholders. One of the key efforts includes applying for a HSI-STEM grant, which will provide significant resources to bolster STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programs for Hispanic and underrepresented students. Additionally, WCC has applied for the renewal of TRIO Student Support Services grants aimed at providing specialized resources for English as a Second Language (ESL) students and students with disabilities. These grants are critical in offering tailored academic support, tutoring, and advising services, ensuring that these student populations have equitable access to success and retention pathways.

Simultaneously, WCC has expanded its engagement with local employers and alumni to enhance career education programs. These partnerships not only provide students with a clearer path from education to employment but also align WCC's programs with the needs of the local economy.

Goal 3: Align Career Education with Labor Market Needs (YCCD 1, 7)

Objective 3.1: Develop High-Demand Programs

WCC is actively aligning its instructional programs with local and regional labor market needs to ensure students are equipped with the skills and knowledge required for in-demand careers. Key initiatives include:

- **Expansion of Pre-Health and Early Childhood Education (ECE) Programs:** Recognizing the increasing demand for healthcare professionals and early childhood educators, WCC has expanded its pre-health and ECE programs. These expansions aim to increase the availability of qualified professionals in these fields, offering students more opportunities to pursue careers in healthcare and education while addressing workforce shortages in these essential sectors.
- **Advisory Boards and Program Exploration:** WCC continues to prioritize the development of advisory boards across various sectors to ensure its programs remain responsive to industry needs. The college is exploring the introduction of new programs in Cybersecurity, Engineering, and Supply Chain Management, all of which represent fast-growing industries with significant job opportunities.

Objective 3.2: Expand Work-Based Learning Opportunities

WCC continues to seek ways to expand experiential learning opportunities for its students. For example, WCC has organized specialized career fairs to provide students with targeted exposure to industry-specific opportunities and networks. Events such as public safety panels and education-focused career fairs connected students with professionals in their fields of interest, offering insights into career pathways, required qualifications, and potential job openings. These events also facilitate mentorship opportunities, allowing students to build relationships with experienced professionals and explore internships, volunteer roles, or job shadowing experiences that align with their career aspirations.

Goal 4: Foster a Culture of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, & Social Justice (YCCD 2&3)

Objective 4.1: Address Structural Inequities

WCC has made significant strides in removing barriers to student success, focusing on accessibility, equity, and student engagement. Key progress includes:

- Fostered a data-informed, equity-focused culture: This includes engaging in equity-focused conversations during program reviews, where data is disaggregated to identify and address opportunity gaps across different student populations.
- Caring Campus initiatives for staff: WCC rolled out the Caring Campus program for staff, fostering a more inclusive and supportive environment. This initiative aims to improve student retention and success by building a culture of care and engagement, ensuring students feel valued and supported throughout their educational journey.

Objective 4.2: Promote Equity and Inclusion

WCC continues to foster an inclusive campus climate through a variety of initiatives designed to promote equity, belonging, and student well-being:

- WCC has provided training to faculty and staff on implementing culturally responsive teaching methods. This effort has been paired with an expansion of culturally responsive events aimed at creating an environment where students from diverse backgrounds feel valued. Events include LGBTQ+ activities, which help foster a sense of belonging and inclusion on campus.
- Organized the Sana Sana Health and Healing Walk/Run: This event was designed to support holistic student well-being, addressing both physical and mental health by encouraging students to engage in self-care and community-building.
- Looking forward, WCC will further develop its AANAPISI (Asian American Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution) efforts: The College has plans to enhance its AANAPISI initiatives, focusing on better supporting underserved student populations through targeted programs and services that promote academic success and community engagement.

These actions demonstrate WCC's commitment to creating a campus that is both inclusive and supportive of all students, with ongoing efforts to expand these initiatives in the future.

Objective 4.3: Encourage Participatory Governance

WCC continues to make improvements to increase participation in governance:

- During the 2023-2024 academic year, WCC saw a significant rise in student participation in shared governance, allowing for a broader range of voices and perspectives in decision-making processes. The governance guide was updated to include expanded opportunities for diverse representation, ensuring a more inclusive and participatory environment for both students and staff.
- WCC hosted a Peer Resource Team (PRT) visit, a service from the state-sponsored Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative (IEPI) program, to evaluate and improve the College's governance structures. This visit focused on enhancing engagement in the governance process, aiming to create more effective structures, reduce redundancy, and reflect the College's commitment to equity and collaborative decision-making.

Conclusion:

This progress report highlights Woodland Community College's dedication to advancing student success through high-quality academic programs, equity-driven initiatives, and robust partnerships with local and regional stakeholders. Ongoing efforts will ensure alignment with evolving labor market demands while fostering an inclusive environment for all students. With key leadership transitions, including the appointment of President Lizette Navarette in 2024, WCC will conduct a review of the objectives outlined in the 2022-2025 Educational Master Plan, laying the foundation for the development of a new strategic plan for 2025-2028.