

NEWS RELEASE

News Contact:

Cathy Summa-Wolfe, College of Marin, 415-485-9528, cathy.summawolfe@marin.cc.ca.us

COLLEGE OF MARIN BOARD APPROVES EDUCATIONAL MASTER PLAN
Watershed Document Includes Recommendations for Strengthening Institution

KENTFIELD, Calif., April 25, 2006— The College of Marin Board of Trustees approved the college's Educational Master Plan (EMP) at its April, 25 meeting. The plan passed with a six to one vote, Trustee Dr. Eva Long dissenting. The EMP was developed over many months through a shared governance process including faculty, staff and students.

The plan identifies the challenges that the College faces and includes recommendations for increasing enrollment, better utilizing space, and strengthening the institution.

“The EMP will serve as a blueprint and it will inform decisions on how we can best serve our students and our community,” says Superintendent/President Dr. Frances White. “Many people have worked very hard to develop this important document.”

Developing the Educational Master Plan is part of COM's efforts to comply with the recommendation to institute an institutional planning process that was identified last year by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accrediting Association. The plan provides the foundation that supports the College and establishes the direction for its many programs and activities. Specifically, the plan identifies eight key planning goals:

1. Enhance and maintain educational excellence in general education and transfer offerings.
2. Develop and maintain a supportive learning environment where individuals will be most likely to fulfill their personal and professional goals and expectations.
3. Incorporate flexibility into scheduling, facilities usage, curriculum development, and faculty assignment.
4. Encourage broader community involvement in and use of the college by means of curricular offerings in a variety of formats, such as a community cultural center and partnerships with K-12 educators.
5. Identify and address workforce development needs.
6. Investigate the College's institutional and instructional performance by continually gathering and analyzing both qualitative and quantitative data as appropriate.
7. Develop and implement sound and coordinated planning processes to support institutional, instructional, and student support service goals, and to promote achievement of student learning outcomes.

8. Create a physical environment that is inviting to students, generates pride in the community, adheres to green principles, and supports the College's mission, goals and initiatives.

Implementation Process

Once the Board of Trustees adopts the plan, the College will begin implementation. First, each department will develop specific, measurable action steps based on the goals. The College's Institutional Planning Committee will review these steps to ensure that the activities contribute to the achievement of the goals. Departments will be required to show expected progress as part of their annual review. Second, as a living document and through the collegial governance process, the Educational Master Plan will continue to be reviewed and revised to meet changing college needs

The Educational Master Plan was created through the College's new participatory governance model. Representatives from each of the institutions constituent groups participated.

"Much to my delight the administration responded to our requests to include local campus expertise in the EMP revision process," said Faculty Senate President and English Instructor David Rollison.

COM hired instructor Michael Brailoff and community college planning consultant CCS Group to co-facilitate the process. The two worked with the Educational Master Plan Task Group, which was co-chaired by Academic Senate President David Rollison and Interim Vice President of Student Learning Elise Schnieder, and Vice President of Student Learning Anita Martinez who took on the role recently when she was hired.

"The Classified Senate is pleased that we are moving forward in this process and we look forward to future discussions about the implementation of this plan," said Becky Reetz.

About College of Marin

College of Marin has been providing exceptional educational opportunities for students of all ages since 1926. College of Marin is fully accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges