

**BOARD REPORT NO. 16-1-4C**

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Ron Galatolo, Chancellor

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**REPORT ON CANVAS-ONLINE EDUCATION INITIATIVE**

The San Mateo County Community College District (SMCCCD) is leveraging tools and resources available through the California Community Colleges' Online Education Initiative (OEI) to transform how online education is delivered at all three Colleges. The Online Education Initiative (OEI) is a collaborative effort among California Community Colleges (CCCs) to ensure that significantly more students are able to complete their educational goals by increasing both access to and success in high-quality online courses.

The OEI is sponsored by the Foothill-De Anza Community College District, in partnership with the Butte-Glenn Community College District and its CCC Technology Center at Butte College as recipients of a \$56.9 million five-year grant disbursed by the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO). The goal of the initiative is to increase the number of California students who obtain associate degrees and transfer to four year universities by dramatically increasing the number of online classes available to community college students and providing those students with comprehensive support services to help them succeed.

All Colleges can benefit from OEI regardless of their level of involvement. There are three levels of activities that California Community Colleges may choose to participate in OEI:

- Colleges Using OEI Resources
- Colleges Using OEI Resources and Canvas
- Colleges Using Resources, Canvas and Course Exchange

Key to taking advantage of the programs and benefits of the OEI is the adoption of Canvas as the course management system (CMS) for SMCCCD. Canvas was selected as the CMS for the California Community Colleges participating in the course exchange portion of the OEI. In June 2015, OEI announced that Canvas would be available to any College who would like to change their current CMS and that OEI will be providing 100% of the costs of the services for Canvas at least through the 2018-2019 academic year. Over the next 18 months, SMCCCD will be working with OEI through a cohort program to transition to this common course management system.

As a District, we will leverage this CMS migration to provide professional development to faculty that is focused on designing learning environments online that are enhanced for student success and access. This training will be centered on the application of the OEI Online Course Quality Rubric that was developed collaboratively with the California Academic Senate and is based upon research supported best practices

for online education. Many of these practices are applicable to the traditional classroom (face-to-face Instruction) therefore as faculty are trained on Canvas and online course design, they will also be exposed to best practices that positively impact student success, persistence, retention, and completion in all courses. In addition, we will be able to assure that all instructional materials in online and face-to-face courses meet Section 508 standards for accessibility.

Online course enrollments continue to grow across the District as students see online education as an important part of their educational plans. Currently online enrollments are up over 2% Districtwide for Spring 2016. In Fall 2015, online enrollments represented almost 12% of total enrollment across the District; 13.6% at Canada College; 10.1% at College of San Mateo; and 12.5% at Skyline College.

According to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office,

- Of all courses offered at California's community colleges, 12.3 percent are offered through distance education, and it is estimated that nearly half of all courses have some online component.
- California community colleges first started offering distance education courses in 1979.
- Of the 2.4 million students enrolled in 2011-2012 academic year, 621,501 took at least one distance education course.
- Distance education almost doubled from 21,414 sessions in 2005-06 to 41,354 in 2011-12.
- Fifty-one percent of California's community colleges offer certificates and degrees that can be earned without stepping onto campus for classes.

The partnership with OEI will initiate a new and improved approach to online education at SMCCCD that will result in higher quality instructional opportunities and enhanced student success in online courses. This partnership also aligns with the San Mateo County Community College District Strategic Plan, specifically Strategic Goal #3: Increase program delivery options, including the expanded use of instructional technology, to support student learning and success.