

## Annual Review of Current College Initiatives:

### The Honors Project

#### Section 1: Quantitative Data

Number of New Students: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Continuing Students: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Students: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Section 2: Personnel:

Number of Faculty and Amount of Reassigned Time Devoted to Initiative \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Staff and Percentage of Time Devoted to Initiative (e.g. Project Coord., Instructional Aid) \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 3: Student Success** (In order to ensure consistency in data reporting, work with PRIE staff to provide the following information for each of the last three years, if available. Information should be provided for new students and continuing students in the program/project. Attach report from PRIE.)

#### *Quantitative Data:*

Retention Rate of New and Continuing Students

Persistence Rate of New and Continuing Students

Completion Rate of New and Continuing Students

Number of Degrees Awarded

Number of Certificates Awarded

Number of Students Transferred

*Qualitative Data:* (Please report on any additional data (e.g. surveys, focus groups, etc.)

**Section 4: Description of Goals and Activities:** Provide a brief description of your activities for the current year. Please describe any goals that you identified.

#### Activities

Honors Project faculty will attend the Bay Honors Consortium Faculty Roundtable, October 28, Mills College.

Honors Project coordinator, with former ASLT Dean and other faculty, will present opening keynote panel on "Institutional Honors Pathways: Inclusion for Students, Faculty, Administrators."

Honors Project coordinator part of the planning team for this event, as well as the BHC Symposium (where students from various CCC honors programs present their research), to be held in spring 18 at UC Berkeley. CSM has been hosting all BHC planning meetings, last year and current year.

Still in planning stages: a social/academic field trip for students and faculty, this fall. Last year, we went to Stanford Cantor Center for the Arts (fall) and SF Legion of Honor (spring).

Honors Project Student Showcase, held each fall and spring, for students to present their research projects. This fall, Dec 7 & 8, in the CAE.

*Labyrinth* publication each semester. *Labyrinth* is the award-winning student academic journal, published by the Honors Project, the Writers' Project (the student club of the HP), the ASLT division and Student Life. The Writers' Project meets each Friday in the Honors Lounge (12-208)

HP coordinator, hopefully with a few HP students, will attend the annual National Collegiate Honors Council conference in Atlanta in November, to receive top award (again) for *Labyrinth* student journal, participate on newsletter panel, and attend workshops.

### Goals

1. To improve outreach, presence on campus, recruitment – from local high schools too.
2. To revise our program requirements (currently underway through the HP Advisory Council).
3. To promote and enact equity by finding creative yet rigorous ways to include students of diverse, underrepresented and/or disadvantaged backgrounds (related to goal 2).
4. To network more concretely and effectively with other learning communities.

**Section 5: Accomplishments and Challenges:** Please describe any accomplished achieved and challenges you experienced. What changes, if any, do you expect for next year?

Drawing on the goals articulated above, I think our most pressing challenge (perhaps quandary is the better term) has to do with growing the program, scaling it up and out. On the one hand, I hear constantly that CSM students wish they had known about this program years ago; they are about to transfer and can possibly participate for only one semester. On the other hand, I'm hearing more and more from HP students who have transferred to places like UCLA and UCB that the training and experiences they got in the program are proving dramatically beneficial.

We owe it to our students to promote the program more effectively, and grow the program. However, growing this program (much like any program) comes at a price. Our honors program is uniquely designed around intensive collaboration through the seminars. Because we offer very modest compensation to participating foundation faculty (which demonstrates great integrity and real commitment to student success on the part of our administration), bringing in more students will require further investment and expenditure. Last year, Cabinet graciously agreed to allow the HP to add seminars if necessary, since one of the seminars had enrollment that was too high. This year, we have not encountered this problem; but that's because of the other, related problem: the program needs better marketing and outreach so we can include more students, and add more seminars.

My hope is that, with IPC's and Cabinet's blessing, we will move forward by first tackling the marketing and growth challenge, grow the program to the benefit of more students (and more diverse students), then evaluate the costs of the program. Concrete, measurable student success, as well as a proactive approach to increasing and improving student equity (essentially interlinked with more effective promotion), is at the center of the Honors Project's mission and impact.

**Section 6: Resources:** Evaluate the adequacy or appropriateness of the resources dedicated to this project. (Resources may include personnel, facilities, equipment and supplies.)

The HP so far has remained within budget each year. Expenditures include foundation faculty compensation; refreshments for showcase events and field trips; registration fees for BHC events (for students and faculty); graduation sashes; and *Labyrinth* publication costs.

Needs:

- adequate and consistent funds for *Labyrinth* publication
- more staff support would be helpful (currently there's almost zero)
- funding for any additional marketing/outreach efforts