5 - Innovations: Vision for Continued Improvement and Innovation Beyond 2014

Moving into 2015 and 2016 BC anticipates that current discrete goals will start merging into fewer goals because of the work we have accomplished. Potentially there will be new technologies that we cannot predict, but since we have created a culture of adaptation and staying current, we will be able to incorporate them and adjust our work plans as needed. What are goals now will become normative for how we do work. As our institutional research reveals the most successful strategies we have piloted and as professional development leads us to additional opportunities, new goals will emerge.

While many activities will be a continuation of current efforts, others will be scaled up. Making It Happen (MIH) will expand from a relatively small cohort to all first-time students.

MIH is an example of concerted efforts that work across goals. For example, MIH works with high schools on curriculum and placement (Goal 1), with BC students whose skills need improvement (Goal 2), with curriculum redesign that helps students reach certificate and degree goals more quickly (Goal 3), and with mitigation of disproportionate impact (Goal 4). Such extensive work occurs because of the emphasis on distributed leadership (Goal 5).

Goal 1 and Goal 2 - Before BC and Skilling Up

Outreach and MIH: (Appendix D, p. 56).

- Administer the assessment/placement process in all high schools during the junior year to encourage students to take more English and Math courses their senior year.
- In addition to the AP and IB courses that are accepted as college-level, BC accepts a high school English course, which is taken during the senior year. We will develop a similar senior-level Math comparable to meet a college-level Math requirement.
- For the 1,500 incoming MIH cohort in 2015, each student, in addition to the a SEP will develop a weekly schedule that blocks out time for “study hall.” BC is staffing up the Tutoring Center, Supplemental Instruction, the Writing Center, and the Student Success Lab. These venues will serve as the study hall for students to do homework in an environment that cultivates the habit of studying and doing homework. First-generation students, for example, often do not have a suitable environment at home for study.

Redesigning Basic Skills: Spring 2015, BC is offering 15 sections of the compressed and stacked courses and 24 sections of accelerated English, Reading, and Math, saving students the time, units, and money needed to complete Basic Skills pathways.

In 2015, BC will investigate including a noncredit basic skills option for students. In addition, BC plans to expand opportunities to take diagnostic tests in the Student Success Lab and provide individualized remediation paths to succeed in coursework and raise academic placement through retesting.

Alternative Learning Environment Using Open Educational Resources: BC’s commitment to high-tech, high-touch education will be exemplified in the development of an Alternative Learning Environment, where technology will be used to support and deliver a customized, flexible learning experience that maximizes both student time and college resources. Using software that supports granular assessment and remediation based on specific learning outcomes, students will realize
a more direct path to readiness for college-level work. Supported by relevant and innovative communication strategies and data-driven, just-in-time seminars and tutoring services, this environment will rely heavily upon the use of open educational resources.

Goal 3 - Transfer and Completion

Rural Initiatives: BC is working with the Delano Joint Union High School District to implement the Get Focused . . . Stay Focused initiative. Students receive information to develop a long-term goal called the 10-year Career and Education Plan and earn college credit. Once the program is piloted in Delano, it will be offered to other rural high schools.

Also under consideration is an Early College High School Program through Robert F. Kennedy High School, located next door to the BC Delano Campus. The Delano Joint Union High School District has proposed something similar in the nearby rural community of Earlimart, home to another underserved and impoverished population.

Bachelor of Applied Science in Industrial Automation (BAS): If the college is selected to participate in the pilot, the curriculum approval and accreditation substantive change processes will begin right away. The BAS junior year cohort will begin in 2016.

Goal 4 - Equity

Social Justice and Faculty Academy: In Spring 2015, BC will launch The Institute for Social Justice, including its Equity Leadership and Learning Academy (ELLA)—an exclusive curriculum designed for BC faculty and staff to explore how inadvertent biases in policies and practices create unintended barriers to equal student access and opportunities for success (Appendix D, p. 56).

EquityTV with BC: A fusion of radio and television, weekly webstream broadcasts start on January 19, 2015, and continue through mid-May 2015, with the option to renew the contract. The 14-week schedule will employ a four-topic rotation\(^{14}\). Each topic has a lead BC staff member to assist in the identification and booking of guests, as well as with the development of key points of information for the broadcast.

Goal 5 - Engaged and Distributed Leadership

The engaged and distributed leadership method will become the norm at BC. We will continue to strengthen the BCLearns! and Learn@BC! initiatives. We will continue with conferences like the Instructional Technology Conference with keynote from Michael Wesch on Feb 5, 2015 and the Equity Conference on April 23, 2015 (Appendix D, p. 61). BC will continue to be adaptive, flexible, rapid in response, yet disciplined and rigorous in our approach.

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\(^{14}\) The schedule promotes specifically college-issues for African Americans, Latinos, Veterans, and Foster Youth.