



MOORPARK COLLEGE

7075 Campus Road
Moorpark, CA 93021
www.moorparkcollege.edu
805 378 1400

September 21, 2020

Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook, Chancellor
College of the Canyons
26455 Rockwell Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91355

Dear Dr. Van Hook,

Moorpark College is interested in being the recipient of a Full Partnership Resource Team visit and a \$200,000 seed grant in support of our continuing work to advance the College's Social Justice and anti-racism and anti-hate work. The College community has established a clear plan and metrics in the Moorpark College Student Equity and Achievement Plan. In the wake of the murder of George Floyd and Chancellor Oakley's Call to Action, Moorpark College is invested in being self-reflective with the intention of undertaking structural changes, develop tools and practices, and go beyond dialogue to action that nurtures an anti-racist campus culture. Moorpark College strives to improve student achievement through diversity, equity, and inclusion. The College's Education Master Plan as well as Strategic Plan identify metrics that motivate and provide direction to achieve equity, diversity and inclusion goals. The College finds itself well positioned to address the education and workforce development needs of our community and is invested in reducing achievement gaps among traditionally underrepresented student groups.

Areas that Moorpark College Does Well

Located in Ventura County, Moorpark College is one of three colleges that comprise the Ventura County Community College District. Moorpark College has the reputation for academic excellence. The Campaign for College Opportunity has recognized Moorpark College in each of the past five years as a Champion of Higher Education. The College has consistently increased the number of students earning an Associate Degree for Transfer and enrolling those students in the CSUs. Moorpark College has the highest completion rate in the state according to the 2018 Scorecard and was recognized as an Aspen Institute 150 College last fall. The College has grown from 17% LatinX student population 6 years ago to 35% this academic year. This growth was intentional and the product of strategic outreach as well as targeted onboarding and retention practices.



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We have brought national experts on equity and inclusion to campus as part of a comprehensive professional development system to build an infrastructure and climate that supports the success of students of color. We developed and implemented a comprehensive outreach effort to increase our LatinX student population so it reflects the population of our service area. We are supporting our men and women of Color with a Teaching Women and Men of Color Advocates group that includes faculty and staff. We also have an A2MEND charter on campus that mentors our African American Male students.

Moorpark College has received HSI STEM grants in support of our LatinX and other disproportionately impacted student populations. Moorpark College has partnered with California Lutheran University on the CHES Grant and California State University, Northridge on the AIMS grant to improve student success for LatinX and economically disadvantaged students. Enrollment management, program review and integrated planning are other areas in which the College excels. Moorpark College is a dialog rich environment that puts students at the center of decision-making.

Areas of Focus for the Partnership Resource Team Assistance

The college requests assistance to

- build infrastructure and the leadership capacity to implement the goals in our plans as well as address the concerns of our Black Indigenous and People of Color students for an inclusive and welcoming learning and environment;
- analyze the impact of Distance Education on the success of marginalized student populations;
- review policies and procedures to ensure student equity and success are indeed a priority in the virtual learning environment;
- develop systems and practices to ensure our online academic, student services, and administrative services are designed to facilitate student equity and success.

Rationale for Areas of Focus

We have the starting point but we need to build capacity and develop systems that sustain a college culture that truly transforms the student learning experience. IEPI support would assist Moorpark College set up a Distance Education Plan that can help us not only optimize for today but plan for the future. It can be challenging to conduct an internal self-assessment for organizational structure and process improvement. The PRT review and support can assist in the development of a plan for effective analysis, recommendation, and implementation of changes leading to a truly equity minded campus culture.



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Description of how these Areas of Focus Relate to the Core Commitment in the Vision for Success

Moorpark College needs to address the disparity between the employee and student diversity ratio. At MC, 57% of students are non-white while only 39% of employees are non-white. 36 % of MC students are LatinX but only 15% of employees are LatinX. Moorpark College is 13TH in completion for Black/African American students in the California Community Colleges. The College aspires to do better by our marginalized student populations. The move to predominantly online education last spring further revealed the equity gaps in our campus community. Our BIPOC and low-income students were most impacted by the economic and social implications of the pandemic. They are likely to drop out, take an EW and are disproportionately represented in those who did not return to the campus this fall. The technology gaps and the basic needs challenges demand that we design the learning experience with these students in mind. Moorpark College seeks PRT support to review and update our Distance Education Plan in light of the current pandemic and our commitment to the success for our BIPOC students. Studies demonstrate that Black male and academically underprepared students fare worse in online than in face-to-face courses, while outcomes for adults actually gain on traditional-age students in online settings. Moorpark College struggles with the relatively lower success rates of Black and LatinX Males, low-income students and returning adult college students in the online context. To serve students better, we continue to pair high expectations with high support; with the assistance of the PRT, we hope to develop more wrap around services and adopt best practices that promote student achievement and reduce systemic barriers to learner success. To respond to Chancellor Oakley's Call to Action, Moorpark College is building institutional infrastructure and human capacity to implement our college's diversity, equity and inclusion plan. The PRT offers the College expertise and a forum for dialog leading to outcome driven actions that will transformation the campus and student learning.

Timeline for the Visit

To maximize the participation of campus community stakeholders, the college would prefer the visit in late February 2021.

Thank you for reviewing our application. Feel free to contact me at (805) 553-4864 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Julius O. Sokenu
Interim President

cc: Diane Rausch