

Notes on Foothill Community Interviews Conducted by Dan Rosenberg and John Spevak at Various Sites Primarily on April 13, 2015

Comments made during a meeting at the Hillview Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave, Los Altos, CA

- Continue to provide extensive "human-touch" services to veterans coming to Foothill College, including helping them re-integrate into society
- Expand the number of four-year degree programs
- Continue to be a leader in state-of-the art technology in education, especially in campus labs

Attending:

Ron Labetich, Senior Vice President, DTZ Commercial Properties, Los Altos, CA and member of the Los Altos Rotary Club)

Comments made during a meeting at the Middlefield Campus of Foothill College, 4000 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto, CA

- Continue to support Career Pathways
 - Prepare students either for the work force or for transfer to four-year colleges
 - Talk with students about career pathways in the middle college program
- Provide direct linkage to jobs
 - Internships
 - Job shadowing
- Ensure the new FHDA Education Center on Innovation Way meets the needs of students' careers
 - Increase partnerships with businesses in the Silicon Valley
 - Increase student diversity
 - Create programs that provide dual and concurrent admission
 - Examples include computer graphics and health
 - Broaden the focus of child development to prepare more students for teaching in the early grades
 - Publicize broadly what the new center can and will do for students
 - Publicize access to the new center via public transportation
 - Establish one or more advisory groups for the center
 - Add engineering to courses offered at the new FHDA center
- Identify what community education and contract education courses and programs should be offered at the new FHDA center
- Increase articulation of Foothill College career programs with high schools and universities
- Expand summer bridge programs
- Connect more closely the EMS program with other first-responder programs in the region
- Increase outreach to the community, including high school students and adults, on the nature and quality of Foothill College programs, especially under the umbrella of career pathways
- Continue to seek feedback from local and regional businesses to find out what skills Foothill College students need to succeed in available jobs
 - Include technical skills
 - Include communication skills like job-appropriate reading, writing, and speaking skills
 - Include soft skills like teamwork and reliability

Attending:

Dave Hoshiwara, Coordinator, Alternative Programs, Palo Alto Unified School District

Dawn Giradelli, Dean, Middlefield Campus and Foothill-DeAnza Education Center, Foothill College

Charlie McKellar, Program Director, Middlefield Campus, Foothill College

Comments made during a meeting at the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce, 580 Castro St., Mountain View, CA

- Prepare students for the workforce in an efficient way
- Continue to teach students the technical skills they need for the job
- Ensure students have communication skills of speaking, reading, and writing
- Ensure students have up-to-date computer skills, such as a moderately high ability to work with Microsoft Office
- Develop in students “project management skills,” to include creating timelines, outlining tasks, assigning deadlines, following directions, prioritizing, coordinating, and following through
- Emphasize the importance of accountability on the job
- Emphasize the importance of learning how to learn
- Help meet the shortage of automotive techs, especially those who can handle a job from beginning to end
- Coordinate with high school counselors so they know that auto technicians are not “grease monkeys” and good ones can earn \$80,000 or more
- Remind prospective students that a community college CTE program, which includes independent thinking, is better than most private schools programs, which emphasize rote memory
- Develop programs that involve internships and job shadowing in the areas related to the students’ college studies, but ensure the internships are carefully directed and coordinated by the College, so as to not overburden employers
- Expand the number of four-year programs, including a program in managing/owning a small independent business
- Add a business track to the auto tech program
- Be more agile and responsive to the changing needs of businesses, especially regarding employee skills, while still keeping high standards

Attending:

Cecile Currier, Vice President, Corporate and Community Health Services. El Camino Hospital, Mountain View, CA

Larry Moore, President, Larry’s AutoWorks, Mountain View, CA

Comments made during a meeting at NetApp, 1345 Crossman Ave., Sunnyvale, CA

- Explore ways in which students, including those with two-year degrees and transferring for four-year degrees, could become a part of the supportive workforce for high-tech industries and related small businesses, including positions related to
 - Writing and operating computer software programs including
 - Medical software
 - Biological software
 - Human resources, including workplace safety, security, and compliance
 - Financial services, such as accounting
 - Building maintenance and operations, including HVAC systems
 - Sustainability, including
 - Water conservation
 - Waste management
 - Solar and other alternative power sources
 - Urban planning
 - Child care and development
- Use the new Foothill-DeAnza Education Center as a new way of interfacing with the high-tech businesses nearby and within the region
- Explore partnerships among Foothill-DeAnza, four-year colleges and universities, and businesses in which students could have internship opportunities with businesses

Attending:

Kerry Haywood, Executive Director, Moffett Park Business Group, Sunnyvale, CA

Comments made during a meeting at the De Anza College

- None

Attending: No invitees from the Sunnyvale Chamber of Commerce, Sunnyvale City Council, Fremont Union High School District, or MetroEd were able to attend.

Comments made during a meeting at Foothill College, with invitees from the Foothill Commission/Foothill-DeAnza Foundation

- Develop new approaches to community education to find new ways for persons who can no longer repeat courses to continue with lifelong education
- Reaffirm the value that all students (including those transferring) are career students and need to select and follow career pathways
- Collaborate more with K-12 districts, industry, and universities
- Find new ways for Foothill College to collaborate with DeAnza College to better serve the District and the region
 - Improve interdisciplinary collaboration
- Strengthen counseling
 - Encourage and advise students to strongly consider going beyond a certificate to earn an AA degree
- Explore ways to work with employers (e.g., in accounting) to validate the knowledge and skills of Foothill College students, to help fill in gaps where needed, and then to guarantee employment
- Strengthen multi-party collaboration among the College and industry partners
 - Explore using an intermediary party or agency to create and nurture this collaboration, using examples from Los Angeles and Boston as models

Attending:

Janet Harding, Los Altos Hills, CA; Member, Foothill Commission

Gay Krause, Executive Director, Krause Center for Innovation; Member, Foothill Commission

Peter Landsberger, Retired (Interim) Chancellor Los Angeles Community College District; Member, Foothill Commission

Comments made during a meeting at the Community Open Session in the President's Conference Room at Foothill College

- Find new approaches to offering community education and lifelong learning classes in light of the state's recent ruling restricting repeatability
- Find new ways to make college resources available to the community
- Find ways to open the fitness and swimming venues during times that accommodate persons with extensive work schedules
- Recognize that decreased times for facilities are more troublesome than increased fees
- Recognize that increased fees are an irritation to older adults who have spent many years paying taxes in support of Foothill College
- Don't try to financially "break even" when offering community education programs
- Find ways to expand community education hours in fitness and aquatic venues that are cost efficient
- Identify ways in which senior citizens could audit classes
- Recognize the value of having various age groups in classes together, creating an improved dynamic beneficial for learning
- Treat older learners in the community with the same respect given to younger students.
- Cover the pool when it's not being used and use the energy cost savings to subsidize community education programs
- Ensure community education aquatic classes are taught by qualified instructors
- Recognize that at least one older adult swimmer wants to learn new things, like flip turns
- Find ways to publicize community education aquatics programs, to encourage more people to attend community ed courses and thus reduce of per-person costs
- Add a variety of new courses to find new ways to respond to repeatability restrictions

- Improve public relations to the community
- Find more ways to gather community input and to have dialogues with community members
- Improve trust between the community and the College
- Improve the transparency of College decision-making
- Create a formal process in which community members, faculty members, and administrators work together constructively to resolve community education issues
- Have one or more community representatives meet with the College President on a regular basis
- Regarding CTE programs, develop closer relationships with local businesses to tailor programs to meet employment needs
- Regarding transfer students, make the transfer process smoother and more efficient
- Teach students to learn how to learn, so they can continuously adapt to changing conditions
 - Focus on critical thinking and logic
- Develop a hospitality career program for students, with a particular emphasis on luxury hospitality options.

Attending:

More than 35 members of the community (No sign-up sheet was passed around)

John Mummert, Vice President of Workforce Development and Institutional Advancement, Foothill College

Comments made during telephone interviews with representatives of Joint Venture Silicon Valley

- Ensure that young people have a smooth path to transfer with good articulation agreements with universities.
- Encourage students to consider careers in “clean-tech” industries with a concern for the environment.
- Work closely with area Workforce Investment Boards.
- Recognize there are jobs in I.T. support for students who earn associates degrees in computer-related fields.
- Include in the education of students the development of ancillary skills such as public speaking, group dynamics (teamwork).
- Help students with job applications and preparation for interviews, coaching them on what’s appropriate to write and say.
- Develop at the new Foothill DeAnza Education Center programs related to energy, the environment, technology, and transportation.
- Help develop internships and externships with business, using approaches that make it really easy for businesses to accept and work with interns.
- Use contract education to help businesses’ workforce upgrade needs.
- Develop collaborative relationships with government, business and education.
- Inform students about what parts of the state and country have jobs available.
- Respond to the net outflow of persons from the Silicon Valley by preparing persons to work in the local area.
- Help students understand the “payback” time in jobs in order to payback the costs of the education.

Participating:

Kara Gross, Executive Director, Silicon Valley Economic Development Alliance, Joint Venture Silicon Valley, San Jose, CA

Rachel Massaro, Vice President & Sr. Research Associate, Joint Venture Silicon Valley, San Jose, CA