The Placer Center

Initial Placer Center Academic Plan Launching Spring Workgroups

August-November, 2023: Throughout the fall, we held **5** sessions to gather feedback on the emerging academic clusters. We engaged over **250** stakeholders and typed-up thousands of sticky notes. All feedback was compiled and analyzed for themes.

Major Themes:

1. Interdisciplinary Focus

2. From Community College to Doctoral Degrees

3. Industry Partnerships, Internships, and Experiential Learning Labs

4. R1 Innovation Hub that leads to Solutions to Complex Social Problems

5. Centralize Wellness, Equity, Access, and Belonging

Our Major Themes relate to the original Master Plan Goals:

MASTER PLAN GOALS

01 Realize Diversity, Inclusion & Access

02 Be a Model for Resiliency & Sustainability

03 Promote Community Building & Placemaking

04 Serve as an Economic Anchor for the Region

05 Support Academic and Student Success

There is not one person or department that has all the answers. This is truly about thinking differently about the future of higher education.

Great News! The Placer Center Academic Plan is *emerging*. Phase 1 of the Placer Academic Plan launches with six workgroup areas:

• **Interdisciplinary Forensic Science:** This might grow into a vision for a *New School of Forensic Science* that is interdisciplinary and innovative. May include: Criminal Justice, Traditional Forensic Science, Public Health, Statewide Lab for Missing Native People, Geophysical Methods, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Digital Forensics, Computer Science, Technology, AI, and GIS.

• **Environmental Health, Sustainability, & Circular Economies:** Interdisciplinary Waste Management and Circular Economies that brings together experts in Entrepreneurship, Engineering, Business, Environmental Science, Environmental Justice, Forestry and Fire Prevention, Emerging Technologies and Manufacturing, HEV Development and HEV Recycling, Technology, and AI.

• **Public Health, Public Safety, & Gerontology:** Interdisciplinary focus on Wellness and Belonging, Health Science, Nursing, Phlebotomy, Aging, Health Education, Allied Health, Criminal Justice, Administration of Justice, Technology, AI, and more.

• **Urban Planning, Hospitality, & Community Development:** Sociology, Tourism, Rec Management, Art, Public Event Production, Community Art Projects, Media Production, Construction and Design, Architecture, Building Industries, Technology, AI, and more.

• **Ethnic Studies (P20), Educational Equity, & Global Education:** Discipline of Hope, Cultural Workers, Local Histories (place matters), Learning the Land, Ethics, Feminist Studies, Peace and Conflict Studies, Tribal Needs, Community Organizing and Service Learning, Teacher Credentialing, P20 partnerships, Dual/Concurrent Enrollment, Study Abroad, Global partnerships, Transformative leadership development, Institutionalizing access and inter/national opportunities.

• **Cross-Institutional Pilot:** This group will focus on impacted majors and developing concurrent enrollment structures (microsites) at Sierra College. Launching a pilot (short-term) and building a long-term plan for seamless academic pathways and guaranteed admissions that will eventually "land" at the Placer Center. (2024-2028)

    • *Current Impacted Majors at Sac State:* Business Administration, Nursing, Criminal Justice, Graphic Design, Health Sciences, Psychology, and Public Health

Next Steps:

• Share the application for people to participate in a spring workgroup (faculty will be compensated)

• Ideally, each workgroup will be co-chaired by a representative from Sac State and/or Sierra College

• Groups will develop plans related to program scope, curriculum, and accreditation needs

• Some Initial Guiding Questions for the Workgroups:

    1. How can interdisciplinary studies solve complex problems by focusing on creative innovations and emerging technologies?

    2. What kinds of undergraduate and graduate degrees and certifications can we offer along the pathway from community college to/through doctoral degrees?

    3. How can we further leverage industry partnerships in Placer County to provide paid academic internships to our students that connect directly to workforce needs and career paths?

    4. What kinds of experiential learning labs will advance our teaching and research needs?

    5. What happens to our curriculum and pedagogy when wellness and equity are centralized?

SACRAMENTO STATE

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