



theRPgroup

Research • Planning • Professional Development
for California Community Colleges

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Dr. Darla Cooper Selected as the RP Group's New Executive Director

SAN RAFAEL, CA, January 18th, 2018 – Today, and with great excitement, the Board and staff of the Research and Planning Group for California Community Colleges (The RP Group) announce the selection of Dr. Darla Cooper to serve as the organization's new and permanent Executive Director. The RP Group is a research and education-focused non-profit that serves the California Community College system.

Beyond her years of serving as the RP Group's Research and Evaluation Director, and her recent service as its Interim Executive Director, Dr. Cooper has worked in the California Community College system for almost two decades, having previously held institutional research director positions at Santa Barbara City College, Oxnard College, and Ohlone College.

"We are thrilled to have Dr. Cooper take the helm of the RP Group," said RP Group Board President Gregory Stoup. "Darla brings years of experience and a commitment to excellence. She did a fantastic job over the last nine months serving in her capacity as Interim Executive Director."

The search for a new, permanent Executive Director involved a multi-stage, rigorous interview process that included both Board and staff. More than 60 applications were submitted and reviewed.

"On behalf of the entire organization, we would like to thank everyone that applied and interviewed for the position," said Stoup. "It was a very strong pool with many qualified candidates, but the search committee was unanimous in selecting Darla as our new Executive Director."

About Dr. Darla Cooper

Dr. Cooper has led several impactful studies and projects, including [Student Support \(Re\)defined](#), a landmark research project that examined factors of student support and success, and has presented on this work at various venues across the state. Dr. Cooper also recently served as one of the coaches for the American Association of Community Colleges' (AACC) Pathways Project, and is on the advisory committee for the California Guided Pathways Project. [Go here to read more](#) about Dr. Cooper's background and service.

About the RP Group

The RP Group is a non-profit, membership-driven organization that strives to build a community college culture that views planning, evidence-based decision-making, and institutional effectiveness as integral, collaborative strategies that work together to promote student success, increase equitable outcomes, improve college operations, and inform policymakers. It does this primarily through research, planning, professional development, evaluation, and technical assistance for California Community Colleges. The RP Group also recognizes excellence through its Lifetime Achievement Award and RP Group Award offerings. Go to www.rpgroup.org for more information.

Mission Statement

Through professional and leadership development, technical assistance, research, and evaluation services, the RP Group strengthens the ability of California Community Colleges to discover and undertake high quality research, planning, and assessments that improve evidence-based decision-making, institutional effectiveness, and success for all students.