From Boutique to Integration: the evolution of independent cohorts into an integrated program

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Philosophical Foundation “Integration” and “Boutique”

- **INTEGRATION**: integration occurs when separate people or things are brought together
- **BOUTIQUE**: a business or shop that serves a sophisticated or specialized clientele
- Our Philosophical Foundation:
  - Integration entails a process of bringing people and programs together and does not mean the dismantling of smaller programs
  - Boutique as a word does not reflect the cultural flavor of smaller programs that are often the only safe space for marginalized students
  - We operate from an equity frame where we acknowledge that all things are not equal and that when all boats rise, some students are left swimming in the water
  - We honor the successes of programs geared towards equity and academic success and see integration as a way of taking what we know works and applying it on a broader scale

What is your philosophical foundation? What do you value?
History of Independent Programs

- MiraCosta College: Puente, Umoja, RAFFY, and FYE
- Each program had their own individual identity and were founded by a different group of people, and housed in different departments
- Each program was funded differently
- Each came from a different movement
  - FYE – Basic Skills Initiative
  - Puente – Statewide MOU with UC
  - Umoja – Expansion of Summer Bridge
  - RAFFY – Passion and personal experience of Counselors
  - Mana – SE plan and funding; organic conversations with the community
What are barriers to integrating and/or scaling programs at your campus?
Initial formation of CASE
Center for Academic Success & Equity

- “If you build it, they will come”
- Unifying name and proposed Center
- Formalizing the connections that were informally already taking place
- Identifying best practices across all programs
- Unifying like-minded individuals (committed to equity)
- Improve cross-collaborations and identify duplicative processes
- Engage instructional partners and focus on curriculum
• Student Equity Department
  • Charged with oversight of the Student Equity Plan goals and objectives, the Social Justice and Equity Center, and Academic Success and Equity Programs
  • Dedicated staffing and space

• Academic Success & Equity
  • Student Services Coordinator across all programs funded out of SE
  • Model for each program (instructional component, co-curricular, Counselor, Assistant)
  • Common goals, assessment, and evaluation processes
• Coalition of Academic Success & Equity
  • Formal Advisory Board
  • Members include both program staff and faculty as well as collaborating departments (EOPS, Administration, Student Equity)
• Monthly meetings
• Outcomes
  • Increased collaboration
  • Greater presence on campus
  • Integrated planning
  • Common Assessment & Evaluation Methods
Examples of Integration and Scaling

**FIRST YEAR FORWARD**

- Scaled version of First Year Experience
- Focused on streamlining student transition into MiraCosta College from the start of their senior year in high school to the end of their first year at the college
- Components include: admissions and financial aid workshops, parent information sessions, enrollment sessions, dedicated counselors, Promise/scholarships, regular communication and follow-up, P.A.L.s
- Integrated into Guided Pathways work, SSSP efforts, and Student Equity focus
- ASE programs
- Steering Committee with Sub-Committee structure (Student Services, Instruction, HS Counselors, HS District representatives)
Leveraging of funds and resources

Potential Funding Resources

- District resources (new and redirected)
- Categorical Funding: EOPS, CalWORKS, Student Equity, SSSP
- Foundation account
- Community sponsorship

Resources

- Administrative support and buy-in
- Clearly identified goals and evaluation process
- Sharing information broadly both on and off campus
Questions