

## San Diego Continuing Education

San Diego Community College District

### College Self-Assessment

San Diego Continuing Education is the largest separately accredited (WASC) noncredit institution in the nation. The institution's service area encompasses San Diego metropolitan region with a population of 1.3 million, representing the largest border city in the U.S. Continuing Education serves more than 35,000 students each semester from six campuses located strategically throughout the service area. Continuing Education offers 35 noncredit career technical education programs as well as basic skills, high school diploma/GED, ESL and other college preparation programs.

An ethnic breakdown comparison of Continuing Education and its service area showed that the Latino student population at Continuing Education (35%) was overrepresented proportional to the Latino general population within the Continuing Education service area (27%). Conversely, both White and Asian student populations at Continuing Education (34% and 13%, respectively) were underrepresented relative to the White and Asian general populations within the Continuing Education service area (45% and 15%, respectively). The African American student population at Continuing Education (9%) was slightly overrepresented relative to the African American general population within the service area (8%). All of this indicates that San Diego Continuing Education is a critical educational portal for students of color to enter a Career Development and/or College Preparation (CDCP) pathway.

Continuing Education (CE) has made CDCP programming and related student success a priority in the institution. In fact, historically, 75% to 79% of all CE courses are CDCP eligible to include ESL, ABE, and Career Development. The ARCC accountability metrics for noncredit institutions are still under development. However, in reviewing the ARCC metrics being reported and those accountability performance measures developed internally by the institution, Continuing Education CDCP students are indicating significant positive outcomes.

In terms of persistence rates, Continuing Education's overall average persistence rate for first-time Continuing Education students was 45% between fall 2003 and fall 2007 cohorts. The persistence rates decreased by 3% during this time frame. This is indicative of and concomitant with economic fluctuations and demographic changes in the region. These are important factors considering the educational goals and the short-term, career-related nature of many Continuing Education students. Over this same time frame, the "CDCP Progress and Achievement Rate" hovered just above 4%, which is consistent with peer noncredit institutions in the state.

In terms of college preparation, in the last four years, an average of 2,430 Continuing Education noncredit students have transitioned to City, Mesa, or Miramar Colleges every year. Continuing Education has implemented new efforts to help improve the numbers of these transitional students. For example, each semester bus loads of Continuing Education students are brought to VIP orientation sessions (called, "Continuing Education Days") at the each of the colleges. Additionally, at the Educational Cultural Complex (ECC) Continuing Education Campus, this fall we established an Associate degree offering through City College. This has shown a 32% increase in City College's ECC credit enrollments. These and others related efforts are indicating excellent performance and continued accountability of investments of CDCP funding.

