

# ACCREDITATION NEWS

2020/21 Year 4 of ACS WASC Accreditation Cycle

## SAN DIEGO CONTINUING EDUCATION

Fall 2020

San Diego Continuing Education (SDCE), an adult education institution within the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD), is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) on a seven-year basis. The school is currently accredited through June 2024 and is continually documenting and improving processes to maintain accreditation on an ongoing basis.

Please visit [SDCE's Accreditation web page](#) on the Planning, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness (PRIE) site for more information.

**Mission Statement:** San Diego Continuing Education commits to student success and community enrichment by providing accessible, equitable, and innovative quality education and support services to diverse adult learners in pursuit of lifelong learning, training, career advancement, and pathways to college.

### FIVE VISITING COMMITTEE KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Expand and increase access to course offerings, support services, and workforce development opportunities to support student success.
2. Increase internal and external communication and collaboration.
3. Provide equal access to targeted professional development with mechanisms that track and measure impact.
4. Maintain and secure technology in support of data-driven instruction, decision making, and student services.
5. Use Integrated planning to support institutional and student success.

#### Progress Highlights on Recommendation #3

One of the five visiting committee key recommendations is #3, *Provide equal access to targeted professional development with mechanisms that track and measure impact.* In the wake of Covid-19, SDCE faculty, classified professionals and leadership quickly pivoted to development and delivery of remote and online teaching and learning. Immediately following the shut-down, SDCE faculty and staff stepped up to provide essential, targeted professional development support for this transition. By the beginning of summer, more than 400 workshops, planning meetings, one-on-one mentoring, and webinars were developed and made available to staff throughout SDCE, and continue to this day as we support our students in navigating this new environment. As our courses moved online, there was a clear need for faculty to become expert online teachers – all within a few short months. With the support of SDCCD Online Pathways staff, our internal distance education faculty and staff experts, and our Passport to Success mentoring team, 180+ SDCE faculty completed their Online Faculty Certification Training by June 2020. With this ongoing support, we currently have over 240

faculty who are certified and teaching 100% online. A Distance Education Mentor, now Coordinator, was brought on to lead these efforts at SDCE, which included the development of a DE Faculty mentorship program with work continuing to target areas of continuing need.

Classified professionals also had to learn to work in a new environment while continuing to support students, faculty and leadership. Working collaboratively to provide learning opportunities for faculty and staff, they provided a number of remote-focused trainings. Classified professionals continue to participate in ongoing professional development activities and serve on committees that will help shape how we serve our students. As we moved into 2020-2021, our first all-virtual Fall Flex Days kicked off with a record number of attendees at Convocation which was highlighted by our keynote speaker on Equity In Action and followed by more than 40 professional development opportunities that included program-based trainings, technology skill development, equity focused sessions, and sessions to support students and employees during the COVID-19 pandemic. Professional development will continue in this robust manner during 2020-2021, with a focus on providing the best online learning environment for our students, as we support our faculty and staff in developing the skills we will need to meet this challenge.

### 2020/21 ACTION PLAN REFINEMENT

The 2020-21 Accreditation Action Plan and 2020-21 Strategic Plan were approved at the October 28th Executive Governance Council meeting. The Accreditation Action Plan determined refinements to both plans for this cycle. Items in blue font are newly added action steps based on institutional priorities, stakeholder planning input sessions, and activities in the Strategic Plan. The Action Plan Overviews and full Action Plans are now posted on the Accreditation Reports page: [sdce.edu/organization/institutional-effectiveness/accreditation/reports](https://sdce.edu/organization/institutional-effectiveness/accreditation/reports)

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## CALL FOR REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS REPORT

This fall, the Mid-Cycle Progress Report, which is largely centered around progress on the Action Plan, was prepared by a team of faculty, classified professionals, and administrators in coordination with SDCE leadership and based on input from stakeholders across the institution. If you would like to share your feedback on the report, please visit the Accreditation Updates page which houses the Mid-Cycle Progress Report and Feedback form: [sdce.edu/organization/institutional-effectiveness/accreditation/calendar](https://sdce.edu/organization/institutional-effectiveness/accreditation/calendar)

## SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Accreditation Sub-Committee meets the first Monday of each month during fall and spring. Guests are welcome. Contact [jluedtke@sdccd.edu](mailto:jluedtke@sdccd.edu) if interested in attending.

## ACCREDITATION SUB-COMMITTEE

Margaret Posner, Faculty Accreditation Coordinator (Tri-Chair)  
Michelle Fischthal VP of Instructional Services/School Principle (Tri-Chair)  
Jessica Luedtke, Dean PRIE/ALO (Tri-Chair)  
Laurie Cozzolino, Flex/Professional Development Coordinator  
Ginger Davis, Administrative Secretary  
Marne Foster, Faculty  
Debi King, Administrative Technician  
Karen King, Sr. Office Manager  
Stephanie Lewis, Dean, Career & College Transition  
Andrei Lucas, Dean, Automotive, Skilled and Technical Trades  
Jesus Rivas, Researcher  
Katie Serbian, Faculty  
Sophear Slaketh, Sr. Student Services Assistant  
Clark Wilson, Job Placement Coordinator

## WANT TO SERVE ON A VISITING TEAM?

Thank you to Dean Andrei Lucas, for serving on an Accreditation Visiting Committee for an Adult School in Northern California. If you are interested, please contact Ginger Davis at [gmdavis@sdccd.edu](mailto:gmdavis@sdccd.edu).

## FALL 2020 TIMELINE OF ACTIVITIES

### September

Student and Community Profile Report  
2019/20 SDCE Highlights Report (based on Visiting Committee Recommendations)  
Stakeholder Planning Focus Groups  
EGC Accreditation Presentation

### October

Focus Group Planning Report  
Leadership Refine and Approve Action Plan  
Final Draft Mid-Cycle Progress Report

### November/December

Governance Review of Mid-Cycle Progress Report

### January

Midterm Report to District Instructional Services/Shared with Chancellor's Cabinet\*

\*Subject to change

## CAREER AND COLLEGE TRANSITIONS CONTINUES TO SUPPORT STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

When campuses closed in late March due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the Career and College Transitions team needed to make quick decisions on how they would continue to support SDCE students for employment. What we did not realize was how the number of students that needed employment would increase and how we would be able to continue our employment collaborations to support the students. We can all agree that searching for work upon graduation is hard but searching for a job in the middle of a pandemic and economic meltdown can be frustrating. We knew that some students just needed job of necessity to continue to support themselves and their families while they remained focused on completing their chosen career pathways.

The Career and College Transitions team was also very aware that the support that we provided during this time was going to be crucial and very important. We are committed to continuing to providing the same level of services to students and alumni although we would now need to do so remotely. In conversations with employers we knew that even when we return to campus, employer

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engagement opportunities are unlikely to resume to pre-pandemic ways. Taking all of this into account, we knew we had an opportunity to think and act differently as a team. To address the gaps in in-person employer connections, we have increased our virtual employer spotlights focused on bringing in employers who are looking to hire students right now via Zoom. These spotlights allow students to have a one-on-one or group interaction with employers and build a connection to employment. Students are responding to these virtual employer spotlights more because they can do so in a friendly and unimposing atmosphere. The employer spotlights have also become a way for us to reach out and engage employers who may not have been able to come to the institution.

Employer spotlights address student's skills, what is needed to be employed with the company, but most importantly how to network with an employer during a remote basis. The employer spotlights allow students the opportunity to put a name with a face in a company, and follow up with employers after the presentation with questions. We have found that the virtual employer spotlights have allowed for more robust conversations than face-to-face networking opportunities. The Career and College Transitions team also

understands that some students can face a challenge with access to technology. To address this issue, the team makes sure to record as many events as possible and posts them to our Career and College Transition YouTube Channel so students can access the information when it is convenient for them.

During this unprecedented time, Career and College Transitions Services remains committed to providing the same high quality services that we did in the career centers at our seven campuses. While we continue to work remotely we will continue to offer phone and virtual meetings through June 2021.

