



Educational Master Plan

## Communications Bulletin #1: Work Group Meeting Summaries (6/5 & 6/12)

*June 20, 2023*

College of the Desert is developing its Educational Master Plan (EMP) for 2023-2028 in alignment with its Strategic Master Plan goals. The College's EMP will serve as an action plan for implementing the institutional goals and objectives in the Strategic Master Plan (2023-2028) and the College's mission, vision, and values. The EMP is a student-centered, sustainable plan for increasing institutional effectiveness, advancing student equity, opportunity, and success, and increasing enrollment. The EMP will be actionable, equity-focused, and data-driven.

College of the Desert has contracted with WestEd to support the EMP development process, including planning and facilitation of input sessions for internal and external partners, an environmental data scan, and an analysis of facilities, growth projections, and opportunities for more effectively aligning college offerings with student and community needs.

Initial project planning began in May 2023. The final plan will be completed by Winter 2023/2024.

### Strategic Master Plan (SMP) Alignment

The EMP will be aligned with the current goals of the SMP. The SMP goals are:

- **Goal 1.** Achieve equitable student outcomes by providing clear curricular pathways and equity-based student supports to ensure student learning and the timely completion of educational goals.
- **Goal 2.** Contribute to the growth and vitality of the regional economy and achieve economic justice by aligning College of the Desert's career education programs with the needs of current and future labor markets and providing students with opportunities to develop 21st-century workplace knowledge and skills, which prepare them for high-quality, high-demand, living-wage occupations.
- **Goal 3.** Develop and implement responsible and sustainable policies and practices to effectively create and steward District resources, ensuring a supportive learning and working environment.
- **Goal 4.** Strengthen a culture of equity, diversity, inclusion, anti-racism, and social justice by cultivating a culture of care, empathy, and mutual support in which students and employees are valued and respected.

The EMP will include two additional focus areas: **enrollment** and **infrastructure and budget sustainability**.



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### Communication and Engagement

#### EMP Work Group

The 22-member EMP Work Group, which will help guide the development of the EMP, is composed of representatives from all employee groups. The EMP Work Group will also function as an information conduit for this project. The names and contact information for the Work Group members can be found on page 2. You are encouraged to contact representatives from the Work Group to ask questions and offer your input on the EMP.

#### EMP Communication

To ensure that the planning process is inclusive and transparent, summaries of all the EMP Work Group meetings will be included in regular Communication Bulletins. Communication Bulletins are intended to keep all partners apprised of project activities, benchmark achievements and provide updates on opportunities for input and feedback. This Communications Bulletin is the first of many project updates and includes a summary of the first two Work Group meetings.

In addition to Communications Bulletins, information will also be posted on the **EMP webpage**, which will be available soon. You can also submit comments, questions, and feedback through an “EMP Comment Portal,” which will be available on the EMP webpage. Work Group agendas, minutes, and other information will also be available on the **EMP webpage**.

#### Opportunities for Input

College and partner engagement is a central component of the planning process, so please look for opportunities to provide input through participation in focus groups, by speaking with Work Group members, and through input sessions. Your input will help the EMP Work Group develop an actionable plan that reflects the priorities of our campus community. Input sessions are scheduled for the following dates:

- Wednesday, August 23, 2023, Times and Locations TBD | Student Forums, Palm Desert
- Thursday, August 24, 2023, 2:00 p.m. | FLEX Session, Palm Desert/Hybrid
- Tuesday, September 12, 2023, 12:30 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. | Palm Desert (English and Spanish)
- Wednesday, September 13, 2023, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. | Indio (English and Spanish)
- Thursday, September 14, 2023, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. | Palm Springs (English and Spanish)

#### EMP Work Group Meeting Summaries

June 5, 2023

The first meeting of the EMP Work Group began with introductions and then a discussion of the objectives and priorities for the College of the Desert EMP. Objectives for the work include: developing an actionable, equity-focused, and data-driven EMP; creating alignment between the EMP and the college strategic master plan; and ensuring high-levels of engagement, input, and ownership of the EMP from internal and external partners. Priorities for the work that EMP members shared included aligning the college’s work with the way the college is funded; creating space to think about how the



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college wants to evolve; closing equity/performance gaps; deep engagement with the college community as part of the planning process; establishing a solid direction for the college that will help the college accomplish their goals; ensuring the EMP isn't just a plan that "sits on the shelf"; and aligning the goals with the purpose of a community college. The Work Group reviewed a draft outline of the major sections of the EMP—aligned to the SMP goals—with additional sections focused on increasing enrollment and fiscal sustainability. The Work Group also brainstormed areas of focus for the research.

June 12, 2023

At the June 12 meeting, the EMP Work Group continued their discussion of areas of focus for the research to inform the EMP. This discussion focused on the third and fourth SMP goals and the need to look at evolving facilities' needs, including evolving technology needs and uses. The Work Group also discussed student support and services and how this impacts campus culture and climate. Next, the group began to discuss potential definitions of some key terms, including which measures to include when referring to student "success" and "outcomes," equity, enrollment, and which student groups to include in disaggregated data analyses. The meeting ended with a discussion on the role of the EMP Work Group and how each member can contribute to the process of developing the EMP.

### EMP Work Group Members

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