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From: Kevin Shriner, Associate Dean, Research and Planning

Update on the Foundations of Excellence® Project

In the spring of 2009 Edison State College underwent multiple focus groups in order to gather information on a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) topic for the upcoming Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) reaffirmation. Through the input of faculty, staff and students, the QEP Committee identified the topic of "First Year Experience" as the area of focus for the QEP. As the topic of First Year Experience is very broad, the college engaged Dr. John Gardner and the Policy Center on the First Year of College to undergo a self-study through the Foundations of Excellence.

The fall 2009 semester began with Dr. John Gardner, Executive Director for the Policy Center on the First Year of College, addressing the faculty and staff of Edison State College during convocation. His speech centered on the need to have a First Year Experience program that would ease the transition of first year students into college. By undergoing a self-study, through the Foundations of Excellence, and developing a plan, the college would identify strategies and programs to effectively ease this transition.

For the past nine months 148 members of the college community have been diligently working on the Foundations of Excellence self-study. These individuals (listed below) have completed nine dimension reports centered on Philosophy, Organization, Learning, Campus Culture, Transitions, All Students, Diversity, Roles and Purposes, and Improvement. Each of these reports is available on the college portal under the "SACS" tab. The hard work of these individuals will lead us into the next phase of this process. Now that the dimension reports and self-study have been completed, the college will focus on two distinct tracks. The first track is to develop a plan for the First Year Experience, and the second track is the development of the QEP.

Pat Newell, Dean of Academic Success Programs, has been charged with the implementation of the First Year Experience plan. She will work closely with a task force composed of faculty, staff and students to develop a plan based on the recommendations of the dimension committees. Once the plan is developed it will be implemented district wide over the next several years.

In conclusion, I would like to add a special thank you to all of the dimension committee members. We would not be where we are today without your commitment to this process. Please know that your input will still be valuable as we move forward with the next phase.

Helen Algernon Paula Dailey Joan James Dorothy Marshall Caroline Seefchak  
 Marty Ambrose Christine Davis Jerilyn Jamieson Taryn Mitchell Kevin Shriner  
 Anne Angstrom Cassandra Dehaney-Duffus Joyce Jandola Roberta Moore Sandra Siefert  
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 Robert Beeson Gina Dengler Scott Johnson Mary Myers Billee Silva  
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