Meeting the Challenge Together

Our Mission

Cosumnes River College is an open access, student-centered, comprehensive community college that prepares students to realize their educational and career aspirations through exemplary transfer, general, and career education in an academically rigorous and inclusive environment.
Colleagues and Friends of CRC,

I am pleased to present the 2012-13 Cosumnes River College annual report Meeting the Challenge Together to the campus and the community. Similar to previous issues, this third edition of the college’s annual report showcases our instructional, support services and organizational accomplishments, and offers an abridged yet vibrant glimpse of the college’s recent progress and successes. Guided by our Strategic Plan, CRC engages its students and the community in educational programs focused on improving access and success, enhancing teaching and learning, responding to workforce and community development needs, and increasing organizational effectiveness.

What this report does not convey in its attractive but condensed format is the complexity and the peak of the challenges experienced and overcome by the college during the 2012-13 academic year. Fiscal uncertainty, budget reductions, enrollment cutbacks, emergent legislation and educational reforms converged, resulting in unprecedented pressures on Cosumnes River College and its capacity to achieve its long-standing mission. And yet, we continued to meet and accomplish our mission! CRC students proudly received their degrees, successfully transferred to four-year universities, and excitedly accepted professional career positions. The achievements and growth illustrated in this report demonstrate the commitment and “can-do” mindset of steadfast faculty and staff and the resiliency of an organization during a period of unique challenges. As its president, I have come to know, rely on and be sincerely grateful for the student-centered values and ethic of care reflected by our entire college community. There is no doubt they are the hallmarks of Cosumnes River College.

It is these distinctive characteristics that sustain CRC’s strong academic reputation and its annual accomplishments validate the college’s student-centered approach to learning excellence. During 2012-13, CRC expanded its educational offerings with new transfer degrees, received and affirmed accreditation on career educational programs, provided enhanced services to military veterans, dedicated new facilities and athletic fields, and engaged students and the community in a vast array of scholarly symposiums and cultural events. These achievements are highlighted in the narrative, photographs and charts incorporated in the pages of this annual report. I am so proud of CRC’s exemplary academic history and the progress we have made this past year in educating our students and advancing their career and life goals.

We began the 2012-13 year with the fitting theme of Meeting the Challenge Together and a Fall 2012 convocation message of Ho’okahi ka ‘ilau like ana, a Hawaiian saying that means “wield the paddles together.” Cosumnes River College, along with a loyal and supportive community, has met the challenge and we will continue to wield the paddles together to serve the needs of our students. I invite you to review this new edition of CRC’s annual report and experience the passion and commitment we have to making a difference in our students’ lives through exceptional education opportunities. I invite you to review this new edition of CRC’s annual report which highlights just some of our many 2012-13 accomplishments, and experience the passion and commitment we have to making a difference in our students’ lives through exceptional education opportunities.

Deborah J. Travis
President
Cosumnes River College strives to support student success, promote educational equity, and offer programs that empower students to contribute to a just and democratic society as global citizens.
INNOVATING PROGRAMS & SERVICES FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

ACADEMIC & SUPPORT PROGRAMS

- Course success rates increased 2% over the past four years, with Basic Skills course success rates increasing 5% over the same period.

- Degree and certificate awards totaled 1,159 with 701 degrees and 458 certificates earned by CRC students.

- At the 2013 Commencement ceremony in May, CRC graduates averaged a cumulative GPA of 3.05, with 110 students graduating with Highest Honors (GPA of 3.5 and above) and 223 graduating with Honors (GPA of 3.0 and above).

- In 2012 student transfers to the University of California and California State University increased by 49% and 51% respectively compared to 2009.

- CRC’s Freshman Seminar, an exemplary, award-winning interdisciplinary course focused on students’ academic success, has served over 750 students and assisted them in selecting majors and completing their educational plans.

- Twenty-eight CRC MESA students successfully transferred to four-year universities, including UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Irvine, UCLA and CSU Sacramento.

- CRC Tutoring Services, including the General, Math, Reading and Writing Centers, supported more than 3,900 students in their academic and career coursework.

- Course success rates for recent high school graduates attending CRC for the first time have improved by 4.7% since Fall 2009.

STUDENT SERVICES & SUPPORT

- A new Veterans Resource Center opened at the beginning of the Fall 2012 semester to provide support to veteran students.

- Counselors worked closely with program faculty and assisted in qualifying students for specific career education offerings, including Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Pharmacy Technology, Veterinary Technology and Ford ASSET programs.

- Student orientation sessions, including “Committed to Your Success” and African-American male student workshops, were developed and presented to enhance student success.

- Events supporting students’ learning and success included the Native American Gathering, Extreme Entrepreneurship Tour, Puente Family Night, Athletes’ Welcome Back and Veterans Resource Center Open House.
• A Summer Bridge Program, in cooperation with UC Davis Sacramento Area Transfer Initiative (SATI) provided a college transition, week-long orientation for 22 African American and Latino male students.

LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

• Eight Puente students were selected to participate in the annual Legislative Leadership Conference and presented information to California Senators and State Representatives on the need for continued support for specialized programs.

• The college supported 12 cultural events showcasing diverse traditions, languages and perspectives. Attendance exceeded 5,150, representing an increase of more than 33% from the prior year. Events included the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, Black History Month, Earth Week, Cinco de Mayo, the Literary Series, and Women’s History Week.

• Seven Honors Program students were recognized as “up and coming” scholars in the field of communication studies when their papers were accepted for presentation at the Western States Communication Association Conference.

• The Art Department sponsored its first major art exhibition, providing an extensive display of Islamic Art for 400+ students, faculty and staff.

• MESA students from CRC and sister college SCC participated in the MESA Business Case Challenge presenting an award-winning proposal for recruiting students from STEM disciplines to meet workforce development needs.

• Students in CRC’s Political Science and Global Studies Programs designed, wrote and produced the latest edition of *Globus Mundi*, the only political science journal of its kind published by a California community college.

• Volume 7 of the *Cosumnes River Journal*, featuring original writings, photographs, and artwork, was compiled and released in May 2013 at a special literary reading and showcase event.

• *The Connection*, CRC’s student newspaper, received a General Excellence award and three individual student awards at the Journalism Association of Community Colleges annual convention.

• CRC Enactus (formerly SIFE Club) planned and executed eight projects in the Elk Grove and South Sacramento communities, including food drives for the Elk Grove Food Bank, the renovation of the Grace House transitional house for the homeless, and a campaign to raise awareness for the EGFBS’ Run 4 Independence at Elk Grove Regional Park.

• Solar Suitcase training was held on the CRC campus for 40 middle and high school students. The solar suitcases were sent to medical facilities, schools and orphanages in Haiti and Africa.

• The Extreme Entrepreneurship Tour, co-sponsored with the State Chancellor’s Office, attracted more than 250 students for presentations on business basics and entrepreneurial opportunities.
TEACHING & LEARNING EFFECTIVENESS

Cosumnes River College promotes collegiality, data-driven decision making, continuous improvement, innovation, and flexibility to support teaching excellence, facilitate educational equity, and promote the success of its diverse student population.
SUPPORT FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

• 40 FLEX workshops were offered to over 380 attendees during the 2012-13 academic year with presentations spanning topics such as Teaching and Learning Effectiveness, Integrating Technology, Course and Program Assessment, Personal Health, Wellness and Safety, and Diversity and Cultural Competence.

• The Professional Development Committee allocated nearly $14,000 in support of 38 individual faculty and staff professional development activities.

• The Center for the Advancement of Staff and Student Learning (CASSL) Fall Symposium and Spring Institute on Critical Thinking attracted the participation of 95 Los Rios faculty members. Attendees engaged in a dynamic conversation resulting in the development of an accessible website of research studies, articles and teaching tools focused on critical thinking.

• English faculty are partnering with Elk Grove Unified School District faculty to coordinate writing course competencies and assess impacts of Common Core Standards.

• CRC, in conjunction with CSUS Center for Professional and Practical Ethics, hosted the 7th Annual Ethics Symposium focusing on the ethics of Biology and Medicine. More than 100 CRC students attended, primarily Science and Health Care majors.

• English Writing and Reading faculty developed and offered multiple sections of Accelerated Reading/Writing developmental classes to create an integrated pathway to college-level courses and facilitate students’ progress in completing their studies.

• In addition to FLEX workshops, 157 professional development activities were offered during the 2012-13 year, including topics such as: Culturally Relevant Pedagogy, Assessment, Student Engagement, Distance Education, and Bringing Science to Life.

• CRC’s OneBook Program, showcased the book *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, and sponsored numerous presentations, dialogues, shout-outs, and cross-discipline learning activities to support instructional excellence and community-building.

“I learned a great deal about our returning veterans and what it really means to walk in their shoes. This workshop was invaluable in helping me be more effective as a counselor to help guide those who have served our country to success.”

LEE WEATHERS, COUNSELOR
• Math faculty have initiated new instructional strategies to support student progress and success in Math coursework, including the use of “flipped” classrooms and Math Boot Camps.

**SUPPORT FOR THE ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF TEACHING AND LEARNING**

• The Curriculum Committee reviewed and processed 579 courses and 73 degree and certificate programs including new Associate Degrees for Transfer.

• The Foundations for Academic Success committee provided support and resources for CRC faculty in the effective teaching of basic skills coursework.

• The Learning Outcomes Dialog Subcommittee successfully launched the college’s new Course Assessment Reporting Process and the Program Assessment Reporting Portal was assessed, modified, and published using new web development software.

• Departmental faculty reviewed specific curricula/services and completed Course/Activity Assessment Reports for 215 sections of 113 different courses offered within 41 disciplines. Approximately 50% of the course assessment reports identified teaching methodology changes, with 30% of the reports affirming current teaching methods.

• During 2012-13, 70 Program Assessment Reports/Plans were submitted for currently offered degrees and certificates. More than 40% of the reports indicated a need to modify teaching methods and 20% reported a need for curricular changes.

• CRC’s Pharmacy Technology program received a six-year initial accreditation from the American Society of Hospital Pharmacists (ASHP) indicating the breadth and depth of the program.

• The college submitted and received ACCJC approval of a Substantive Change Report for its Diagnostic Medical Sonography program.

• The newly-required ACCJC Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) Status Report was submitted in October following college-wide discussion, involvement and preparation.

**ENHANCE COLLABORATION**

• A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was developed and executed for on-campus services to be provided by the Sacramento Veterans Center to assist military veterans enrolling in or returning to college.

• Community agency support (Turning Point) was brought to campus to expand mental health services for students and to provide training for faculty and staff.

• CRC collaborated with EGUSD and SCUSD to offer the ACE Mentor Program in middle schools, CTE workshops in middle and high schools and resume building boot camps for specific career certificate programs.

• The Anthropology Department collaborated with the Sacramento Department of Parks and Recreation to employ students to assess and catalog an archeological site in Old Sacramento.

• CRC’s 5th annual ShareFair, an event to help students learn and observe the impacts of volunteerism and philanthropy, hosted 25 community organizations and collected food, supplies, clothing, books and other items to address community needs.
Cosumnes River College strives to be responsive to the needs of its growing and changing community. To meet the challenges of a highly competitive postsecondary educational market, CRC pursues every opportunity to enhance the student experience and increase community awareness of our teaching excellence, student success, and educational leadership.
DESIGNING NEW FACILITIES AND APPROACHES FOR **ACCESS & GROWTH**

**ENSURE ACCESS TO QUALITY PROGRAMS**

- CRC submitted and received State approval for 10 new Associate Transfer degrees (SB1440) bringing the total of AS-T and AA-T degrees to 15 with two more currently in process.

- Course offerings continued to be available in the Elk Grove community at Cosumnes Oaks High School serving 1000+ students in nearly 40 sections during the 2012-13 academic year.

- Faculty, staff and students participated in a day-long Program Planning Summit focused on the development of enrollment management principles to guide effective scheduling of course offerings.

- Articulation agreements with local and regional high schools were developed to expand access to CRC’s Career and Technical Education courses. 28 courses are now articulated with 10 high schools in courses that include Engineering Design, Radio Production, Construction and Advanced Media Production.

- The initial self-study for CRC’s Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) program was prepared and submitted to the accrediting agency for review. An accreditation site visit is schedule for late September 2013.

- Chancellor’s Circle funding was provided to assist the college in researching and developing information on an Entrepreneurship and Innovation Center.

- New levels of courses were developed and reviewed through the curriculum approval process to ensure compliance with emerging repeatability requirements.

- The college published two Catalog Addenda in 2012-13 to provide up-to-date and accurate course and program information to current and future students.

- Through a partnership with EGUSD, 58 students enrolled into GED classes with 66% of enrolled students tested. Nineteen students completed all five tests and earned a GED certificate.
INTEGRATE AND COORDINATE COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

- Outreach Services provided information to CRC-bound high school students and conducted 710 on-site assessments to facilitate access to college programs and timely enrollment.

- The Planning and Research Office developed and disseminated relevant enrollment data including a longitudinal analysis of course offerings, a ten-year retrospective of degree and certificate attainment, and summer enrollment patterns to assist in the assessment of regulatory changes and the Student Success Act.

- Pre-semester messaging for students and faculty was developed to communicate important changes in enrollment priorities, repeatability of courses and withdrawal impacts.

- Multiple Career and Technical Education program videos were completed and have been utilized in program presentations to feeder schools and community partners. These videos are also available on the CRC website to offer future students a glimpse into career opportunities.

- Designed and published CRC’s second annual report “Charting Our Course” as an outreach/accountability tool for internal and external distribution.

EXPAND PHYSICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- The college completed and dedicated new facilities including the newly-renovated stadium, multiple athletic fields and instructional buildings for Welding, Construction, and Horticulture.

- In June 2013, the college dedicated and opened the joint CRC-Regional Transit parking structure to provide greater accessibility to the campus for students and community members.

- An ACCJC Substantive Change Proposal for Distance Education programs was prepared and is currently being reviewed for submission to the Los Rios Board of Trustees and the Commission.

- Construction of the Winn Center for Construction and Architecture and the Elk Grove Center continued with both facilities due to open in August 2013.

- Upgrades to the Radio, Television and Film (RTVF) studio and radio lab as well as the ESL lab have been requested and are in process to ensure updated learning environments and software programs.
Cosumnes River College reaches out to the surrounding community, expanding its understanding of emerging needs through connections with local organizations and businesses, college sponsorships, and participation in workforce training. CRC also supports economic development through career technical programs and strategic alliances with business, labor and industry.
EXPAND UNDERSTANDING OF COMMUNITY NEEDS

• CRC collaborations with the community continued in academic, cultural, athletic and political areas with events such as Leadership Elk Grove, Future Farmers of America Field Day, National Geographic Bee State Competition, Our Life Stories Writers’ Conference, the Vietnamese American Scholastic Achievement Awards, Rotary Club International Group Study Exchange and Rock the Vote.

• CRC, in conjunction with the State Chancellor’s Office Business and Entrepreneurship Center (BEC) Program, hosted the Extreme Entrepreneurship Tour event providing students and the community presentations and resources on business development.

• The college’s long-standing partnership with the Cosumnes Community Services District resulted in 19 Fire Technology internship graduates being hired by California public safety agencies.

• RTVF students produced and conducted CRC’s first live broadcast of a college basketball game through Access Sacramento cable TV.

• Construction Technology students worked with Habitat for Humanity to provide assistance in building homes to meet the community’s needs.

ENHANCE RESPONSIVENESS TO COMMUNITY NEEDS

• The first cohort of students in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) completed their program and a second cohort was recruited and admitted to meet the workforce needs of the health care industry.

• Program Advisory Committees in Accounting, CIS, ECE and other career education areas continue to meet with faculty to discuss emerging trends and workforce skills that will enhance curricular offerings.

• The college hosted the Sacramento Regional Builders Exchange’s annual Safety Expo and Design Build High School Competition to connect students with local employers and CRC programs.
• CRC sponsored the Sacramento-Yolo Banquet for more than 250 students, educators and employers to support Career Technical Education programs in the region.

INCREASE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

• Grant/sponsorship applications were written and submitted to Kaiser Permanente, Sutter Health and Sam’s Club to support CRC OneBook, signature event fund-raising, the Enactus Club, and economic development efforts.

• New scholarship funds were received from faculty and staff, Emeriti Association and Patrons’ Club members and community residents to support CRC students, particularly military veterans.

• The Planning and Research Office convened a group of faculty and staff to discuss Title III grant opportunities and assess priority needs for such funding should a new Federal Grant Solicitation be open in 2013-14.

• CRC’s Annual Fund achieved a participation rate of 30%.

• The CRC Foundation awarded $12,000 in Textbook Scholarships, $49,000 in student scholarships and $14,170 in mini-grants.

• Multiple endowed scholarships were increased by donors in 2012-13 and significant contributions in cash and equipment were received from individual and corporate donors. Equipment donations included vehicles for the Automotive program, an ambulance for the EMT program, and digital printers for the Photography program.

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*CRC Foundation Net Assets have grown from $201,064 in Fiscal Year 2004 to nearly $450,000 in Fiscal Year 2012. Source: Cosumnes River College Business Office.
Cosumnes River College endeavors to be responsive to its changing and increasingly complex environment and enhance institutional effectiveness by continually assessing and improving its organizational processes.
ENSURE VALUES REFLECTED BY PROCESSES AND PRACTICES

• Professor Debra Sharkey and the Student Sustainability Club were recognized for their efforts in educating the campus about sustainable practices and initiating sustainable projects benefiting the college and community.

• CRC’s Hawks Nest Bookstore made available GreenWeaver graduation gowns made of recycled materials for students to wear for the May 2013 commencement ceremony.

• CRC’s Classified Senate was recognized and honored as a Model Senate by the California Community College’s Classified Senate (4CS) Association.

• The Professional Development Committee sponsored a variety of workshops, including Wellness, Cultural Competency, Sexual Harassment Prevention, and Equity in the Workplace.

• College Operations worked with FM to design and pilot a new program utilizing Smart Grid to automate scheduling of campus HVAC systems.

IMPROVE ORGANIZATIONAL PROCESSES AND COMMUNICATION

• A Shared Governance Handbook was developed to assist committee chairs, faculty and staff with understanding college processes and governance structures.

• The College Planning Committee (CPC) developed an initial draft of CRC’s Integrated Planning Manual.

• Modifications to the Program Review (PrOF) system suggested by the CPC were implemented and dialogue between CPC and the Budget Committee to enhance the link between planning and resource allocations occurred.

• A mapping document, illustrating the linkages between the college’s Mission Statement, Strategies, Shared Governance Committees and College-wide outcomes, was developed and shared with college governance committees.

• The Research Office disseminated 20 key reports to constituency groups in support of data analysis and informed decision-making, including ARCC data, Completion by Design, and longitudinal degree/certificate completion reports.

• CRC’s online PrOF system continues to be refined and upgraded to include assessment reporting as a component of this integrated planning tool.

• Staffing and operational plans for the college’s new Elk Grove Center were developed and are now being implemented with the Center’s opening in Fall 2013.
CULTIVATING A GLOBAL COMMUNITY
2013-14 GOALS

STUDENT SUCCESS

• Enhance Student Achievement and Goal Completion
  Student Support and Co-curricular Learning Opportunities
  Course Completion, Persistence, Degrees, Certificates, Transfers, Support Service Enhancements and Usage, and Early Declaration of Majors

TEACHING AND LEARNING EFFECTIVENESS

• Support Instructional Excellence
  Promote Best Practices and Collaboration
  Course Success and Progression, Curriculum Development, Teaching Innovation, Assessment, Professional Development, Collaborative Efforts, Student Satisfaction

ACCESS AND GROWTH

• Sustain Student Access
  Student-Centered Learning Environments
  Enrollment Management, Educational Facilities and Technology, Articulations, Milestone Completion and Matriculation

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

• Expand Workforce Education Programs and Partnerships
  Advisory Boards, Grant and Resource Development and College-Community Service Activities

ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

• Enhance Cooperation, Efficiency and Collegiality
  Advance College Vision/Values
  Strategic Planning, Accreditation, Communication, Recognitions of Excellence, and Employee Satisfaction

These 2013-14 College Goals are taken from the 2009-15 Cosumnes River College Strategic Plan. Bold items reflect the priorities identified at the mid-cycle planning summit, held in Spring 2011. For more information, visit the Planning website (available via a link on the faculty/staff web page).
AND WE MET THE CHALLENGE TOGETHER…

STUDENT, FACULTY AND STAFF SUCCESS

• CRC student Ramandeep Mann was selected as Phi Theta Kappa All-California Academic First Team member and Bronze Scholar on Coca-Cola’s 2013 Community College Academic Team.

• Students in the first Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) cohort completed their program and graduated.

• The first Student Development Office (SDO) Choice Awards for Leadership and Service Student Development Office were presented to Ramandeep Mann, Molly Reeves, Carmella Henderson, Christina Alvarado, Daniel “DJ” Mitchell and Jesse Thibodeaux.

• CRC welcomed Dr. Brian King as the new Chancellor of the Los Rios Community College District.

• History Professor Mathilde Mukantabana was selected to represent Rwanda as U.S. Ambassador.

• Geography Professor Debra Sharkey received an Instructional Leadership Award from the State Chancellor’s Office for her efforts in promoting sustainability awareness and values in curriculum and organizational practices.

• The Cosumnes River College Classified Senate was acknowledged by 4CS for its professional operational practices, active engagement in the shared governance process and its inclusive and cooperative working relationships.

• Dr Rick Schubert was the first CRC professor to be featured as a presenter of the popular TEDx talks sharing his perspective on the topic, “Concepts & Cages: Life Beyond the Limits of Ideas.”

• DSPS Counselor Scott Hamilton received the President’s Award from the California Association for Postsecondary Education and Disability (CAPED) for his leadership and advocacy for disabled students and support programs.

• PE/Athletics Specialist, and former pro football player, Daimon Shelton was inducted into the California Community College Football Hall of Fame.

NEW PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

• The Child Development Center conducted its first “Read-a-Thon” where faculty and staff read to the children. A total of 542 books were read in 100 days.

• Fifteen new Associate Degrees for Transfer were developed, submitted and approved by the CRC Curriculum Committee and the State Chancellor’s Office.

• The Pharmacy Technology program received its initial accreditation for a full six years.

• Senator Darrell Steinberg and his staff co-hosted a Spring Internship Fair for CRC students and the surrounding community focused on the importance of connecting businesses with education.

• RTVF students conducted the first live television broadcast on cable TV, producing and filming two of our college basketball games.
INSPIRING ANOTHER YEAR OF CRC “FIRSTS”

INNOVATION, ACCESSIBILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

• For the first time, the Hawks Nest Bookstore offered graduates sustainable commencement gowns and students wore earth-friendly, recyclable regalia in May 2013.

• The joint CRC-RT Parking Structure was completed and dedicated to provide access to education and transportation for students and local residents.

• The newly-designed CRC stadium and athletic fields were completed and dedicated in ceremonies honoring current and former student athletes and community partners.

• Senators Noreen Evans, Lois Wolk, Assemblyman Roger Dickinson and Congresswoman Doris Matsui recognized CRC in the Legislature as a participant in the 2013 Solar Suitcase Project.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

• CRC Professor Travis Parker, Alpha Academy, Alpha Phi Alpha, and LRCFT hosted civil rights activist Cornel West for a presentation on education and leadership to a maximum capacity audience in Cosumnes River College’s Community Athletics Center.

• The Library held its first gallery show which highlighted photographs from the “What I Be” project.

• Two Early Childhood Education (ECE) students, Melanie Rodrigues and Jasmine Rojas, were honored for their exceptional service in providing tutoring and assistance to John Reith Elementary School.

• CRC partnered with Rotary International and hosted a six-member Group Study Exchange cohort from South Africa and discussed the similarities and differences between U.S. and South Africa educational systems.

• Cosumnes River College was named one of the top 25 community colleges in California by Schools.com for its academic offerings and for living its motto of “Seek Knowledge.”
Los Rios Community College District
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