Colleagues and Friends of CRC,

I am pleased to present the 2013-14 Cosumnes River College Annual Report, Cultivating a Global Community and Vibrant Learning for All. Each year, this dynamic publication highlights the remarkable accomplishments of our CRC students and the exemplary work of our faculty and staff. In an abbreviated but rich collection, the CRC Annual Report chronicles the college’s progress in achieving its vision, mission and values as defined in our Strategic Plan.

The theme of cultivation was thoughtfully determined and intentionally “sown” through CRC’s year-long efforts in classrooms, labs, study areas, performance venues, offices, conference rooms and in every and any place where faculty and students convened to share ideas and interact. The careful and consistent cultivation of our students’ worldly awareness and love of learning produced tremendous results in 2013-14.

We began the year inspired by remarks from CRC History Professor Mathilde Mukantabana who is now the Rwandan Ambassador to the United States. Mathilde, a passionate leader and advocate of worldwide peace, encouraged us to “prepare our students as global citizens.” It was a fitting launch to a year of vibrant learning experiences focused on the power of community whether local or global.

Sustaining our community was a central and ever-present principle for the college’s educational programs and learning activities in 2013-14. The momentum of CRC’s One Book initiative reached new levels and connected our students, faculty and staff in the potent reading of The Omnivore’s Dilemma and live, interactive presentations with author Michael Pollan. April 24 was a vibrant and unforgettable 2014 Earth Day at CRC!

Learning experiences as well as learning environments matter. Engagement and learning is influenced by students’ interest in the topic and by the quality and comfort of the physical setting. With that in mind, and with the support of generous donors and local taxpayers, Cosumnes River College proudly dedicated two new facilities during 2013-14. The Winn Center for Construction and Architecture and the Elk Grove Center, a facility that is well and proximally located within the City of Elk Grove, are now providing enhanced access to higher education and career technical programs for students and community residents.

It has been a privilege to experience the energy and commitment of our students as they engaged with us and with state-of-the-art core academic and technical equipment in new buildings, and pursued their educational and life aspirations. I hope this CRC 2013-14 Annual Report provides you with a sense of the exhilaration and satisfaction our faculty and staff feel as we witness our students’ successes.

As we dedicated the Winn Center on August 22, 2013, Mike Winn said “My family’s deepest hope is that this wonderful structure will house many life-altering moments of learning.” Here at Cosumnes River College we have cultivated, and we continue to nurture, those exceptional moments of vibrant learning!

Deborah J. Travis
President

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.
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.
ACADEMIC & SUPPORT PROGRAMS

• Fall 2013 course success rates indicate course success rates improved for several ethnic groups including Filipino, Multi-Race and Other Non-Whites, and for students who selected Unknown.

• Degrees awarded increased 20% and transfer-ready students increased almost 30% over the past five years.

• AA-T and AS-T degrees continue to be approved, 278 courses and 83 degree/certificate programs for the year.

• Freshman Seminar was highlighted as a model First Year Experience Program in the “Basic Skills Initiative - E-Resources,” also known as “Poppy Corp 2.0.”

• The Elk Grove Center had a successful site visit from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges ...

• Created and implemented EXCELerate Program at the Elk Grove Center to expedite student program completions.

STUDENT SERVICES & SUPPORT

• DROP and FUTURE learning community programs for African American and Hispanic/Latino students respectively, have improved course success rates and persistence rates.

• The Veterans Resource Center, in collaboration with the CRC Patrons Club, hosted an open house reception for veteran students to become familiar with the center and its services. Due to the growing population of veterans on campus, the Veterans Resource Center was relocated to a larger and more accessible space right next to the Administration and Records Office. The VRC served veterans during the 2013-14 year.

• The CRC Foundation awarded 32 Textbook Scholarships, totaling more than $15,000 in gift cards to the CRC Bookstore. The CRC Foundation honored its annual reception for scholarship recipients and donors in May. The CRC Foundation awarded more than 60 scholarships, totaling more than $15,000 in value on campus to aid in recovery of lost or stolen items, supplies for the Solar Club to build a solar-powered boat to enter into the SMUD Solar Regatta, and books and study reader and scanner for the police department.

LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

• CRC and CSUS’s Center for Practical and Professional Ethics hosted its eighth annual Professional Ethics Symposium on Ethics and Mental Health with 300 students, faculty and staff members participating in the day-long event.

• The Cultural Competence and Equity (CC&E) supported three major cultural events with more than 700 student and staff attendees and instructional-linkages to 10 different disciplines. These events included the Third Annual Native American Gathering, Ecoalebrijes: A Look into the Art, Culture, and Resilibility Efforts of San Agustín and the Artesania of Arrazola, Oaxaca, Mexico; and Move to Amend speaker David Cobb, the National Projects Director of Democracy Unlimited and a lawyer and political activist.

• Events throughout the year brought out more than 700 student and community members attended the discussion, both in person, and via live broadcast from the college’s OneBook/Earth Day events.

• Math Boot Camp increased the number of students from 1 to 3 in an effort to accommodate student interest.

• A new, larger Veterans Resource Center opened in the College Center to accommodate a growing veterans population.

• Eight Påents students participated in the annual Sacramento Legislative Conference where students had the opportunity to speak with Senators and State Representatives to request continued support for specialized programs.

• Four CRC Students attended NASA's National Community College Aerospace Scholars (NCAS) program in March. Two of the students, Berenice Cortes and Ivan Rodriguez, took home top prizes in a competition to design their own mission to Mars.

• Award-winning author of The Omnivore’s Dilemma, Michael Pollan, spoke as part of the college’s OneBook/Earth Day events. More than 700 faculty, staff, and students and community members attended the discussion, both in person, and via live broadcast from classrooms.

• The Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) charter club, as well as the Solar Club, participated in the annual northern California Solar Regatta, each building a solar boat to compete against other colleges and universities from Fresno to the Oregon border.

INNOVATING PROGRAMS & SERVICES FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

New Caption Here...
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**

- Almost 100 faculty and administrators participated with the Elk Grove Unified School District (EGUSD) Linked Learning Leadership team in developing stronger partnerships in career and technical programs and aligning high school completion and college readiness skills.

- CASSSL sponsored its Fall Symposium on Strengthening Bridges for Mental Health and Wellness, Part 1 and hosted Dr. Matthew Mock as keynote speaker for 90 faculty and staff members from across the district. Dr. Mock returned for the Spring Symposium to continue the discussion on mental health.

- Fifteen music students received one-on-one instruction from a professional musician, ensuring they meet transfer requirements for university music departments and making them eligible to transfer at junior-status. CRC is the only college in the District that currently offers individualized Applied Music instruction to students at no additional cost.

- Almost 500 faculty and staff attended FLEX workshops last year, including Prezi, Using D2L to provide guided practice for students and using D2L to make small movies in the classroom. This is a 9% increase in participation over last year. More people also attended the 33 CASSSL workshops offered throughout the year (specific numbers and a couple titles).

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

- A Substantive Change Proposal for CRC’s Distance Education offerings was prepared, submitted and approved by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC).

- Faculty-driven initiative, Acceleration in Context began in Spring 2013, looking at how curriculum is delivered. Some of the things learned include: reading and writing are connected, class dynamics promote confidence, comprehension and critical thinking, and students enrolled in AIC courses are performing as well, or even better, than students who took non-accelerated basic courses.

- CRC and the Elk Grove Unified School District through a professional sabbatical project, developed curriculum alignments between new Common Core Standards and college-level writing and math requirements. Brought English faculty to CRC for English Writing 101 group grading.

- Staff participated in two Linked Learning Leadership retreats with EGUSD staff and community members, working on developing a shared mission statement for career academies and employer/education alliances.

- The newly-opened Winn Center served as a venue for multiple professional association and community meetings and workshops, including the American Institute of Architects, ACE Mentors and IPA Photography Association.

**PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING & LEARNING EFFECTIVENESS**

- COSA—A joint grant, in partnership with Sacramento State, invited 1,100 students who were transferring to create eFolios for placement in advanced writing. In Spring 2014, 28 portfolios were evaluated and those students now hold places in advanced writing courses.

- The Summer Bridge/Jump Start program, in partnership with UC Davis will support 30 first-time students entering college in the fall.

- A Memorandum of Understanding between Drexel and CRC was developed to enhance transfer for students wishing to complete a bachelor’s degree in business.

- A Guide to Assessment document was drafted to assist students with self-evaluation and how the college can better support these efforts.

- Medical Assisting students scored better on their certification exam than the national average. CRC students’ average score for the certification exam was 519, the national average score is 488. The percentage of first-time takers to pass the exam (National) is 69%, whereas CRC is 88%.

- Executed 21 new or renewal high school articulation agreements including Allied Health, Automotive, Horticulture and Welding.

- A Guide to Assessment was written, along with Program and Course Assessment Report Summaries. A total of 87 course assessments, 29 activity assessments, 17 program assessments from instructional programs and 10 from student services were received.

- The Research and Planning Office supported a study by Anastasia Panagakos about the effectiveness of online teaching in five courses at CRC. It also supported a student by Monica Cranston about the effectiveness of using Chat technology for counseling services. (results?)

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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.
ENSURE ACCESS TO QUALITY PROGRAMS

- The Elk Grove Center opened in August 2013 and officially dedicated September 12, 2013. A total of almost 3,700 students were served in the first two semesters of the Center’s opening. In the fall semester, the Center generated 200 FTES. Student offerings increased to more than 320 FTES.

- Excelerate program

- District-wide online orientation went live: February 2 for new-to-college students. More than 25,000 students have been through the orientation.

- With increasing popularity in swimming, the Kinesiology, Health and Athletics division submitted a comprehensive proposal to add Women’s Swimming as a CRC sport.

- Business department faculty and instructional administrators continued to explore entrepreneurship program models and develop entrepreneur-focused curricula to provide the foundation for the college’s planned Entrepreneurship and Innovation Center.

- New digital marquee signs were installed on the two Bruceville Road towers of CRC’s parking structure and provide enhanced exposure to the college’s brand and its on-campus activities.

- The Communications and Public Information Office conducted a comprehensive marketing campaign to increase awareness in the community about the college and help increase enrollment on the main campus and Elk Grove Center. Methods included articles in the local newspapers, advertising on electronic billboards and social media posts.

- The college instruction office worked closely with the Elk Grove Unified School District on the Career Pathways Trust grant focusing on Linked Learning.

- New articulation agreements were finalized for the Fire Technology program.

- New articulation agreements with local high schools (Elk Grove, Sheldon, Sacramento City and Davis) for Allied Health, Culinary Arts, Photography and Radio/Film courses were completed.

- A Los Rios Steps to Success marketing campaign was developed by the college PIOs and district Associate Vice Chancellor for Communications, including videos, web portals, and web links to college resources.

EXPAND PHYSICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- The Winn Center for Construction & Architecture was dedicated in fall ‘13 drawing attendance of 300 business and community supporters for CRC’s newest instructional facility and the first LEED platinum designed building in the Los Rios District. Congresswoman Doris Matsui recognized the opening in an official letter of congratulations.

- Information Technology staff were consolidated from multiple locations across the college into a single unit to enhance service delivery and improve integration of technology management.

- The Photography Department received a donation of $30,000 worth of Nikon camera equipment. This donation will allow beginning students to use quality film cameras to complete their assignments, as well as giving students who cannot afford a camera the use of one of these donated ones.

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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

• The college participated in the regional Career GPS event in late September, staffing seven exhibit booths to provide career and technical education program information to more than 6,000 prospective students in Architectural Design Technology, Art, Video, Film, Radio and Video Production, Automotive Technology/Ford ASSET, Computer Information Science & Health Care IT, Construction, Emergency Medical Technology and Photography.

• Faculty and staff participated in blood drives, Habitat for Humanity home construction, Elk Grove Food Bank collections, and the Children’s Home Holiday Book Donation project providing individual as well as collective contributions to identified community needs.

• The Social Responsibility Committee sponsored speakers on Corporate Personhood, films and workshops on Nutrition, and a special day of remembrance for the victims of Sandy Hook Elementary on the one-year anniversary of the tragedy.

• The Sacramento Republic FC began using CRC’s newest soccer field as their practice facility.

• Faculty in CVPA dialogued with the Mack Road Partnership Business Improvement District on potential collaborations, including the Summer Night Lights community outreach project.

• Developed an initial plan for first-year operations in the new Art Gallery, including creation of an Art Gallery Management class.

• CRC partnered with the Elk Grove Unified School District/Florin High School on a successful California Academic Partnership Program (CAPP) grant focused on building organizational understanding and capacity for the implementation of the Common Core Standards.

• CRC continued to be responsive to community needs through the Educator Internship Program with 25 high school teachers and 14 counselors participating in the program and 22 companies hosting these educators at worksites. The purpose of the program is to give educators “real world” experiences in the Building and Power & Energy industries so they can use those experiences in making academic subjects more relevant and assisting students in making choices about careers and post-secondary education and training.

• Enactus Club members organized a letter writing campaign to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The team collected more than 2,500 letters to Santa and presented them to Macy’s, who then contributed $5,000 to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

• Developed an initial plan for first-year operations in the new Art Gallery, including creation of an Art Gallery Management class.

ENHANCE RESPONSIVENESS TO COMMUNITY NEEDS

• CRC partnered with the Elk Grove Unified School District/Florin High School on a successful California Academic Partnership Program (CAPP) grant focused on building organizational understanding and capacity for the implementation of the Common Core Standards.

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INCREASE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

• CRC Foundation hosted its annual signature fundraising event, Taste and Toast, in October and successfully raised nearly $30,000 including $9,200 for student textbooks.

• Business Department and Advancement Office collaborated on a major donation proposal for the planned Entrepreneurship and Innovation Center.

• Culinary Arts Management Professor Cynthia Torres, along with several students participated in the annual Spotlight Elk Grove, a fundraising event for the Elk Grove Regional Scholarship Foundation that provides scholarships for graduating high school students.

**CRC Foundation Total Net Assets**

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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

• College-wide and constituency communications on the upcoming employee survey and CCSSE administration were disseminated to provide awareness and request participation among all CRC staff and students.

• The college conducted a successful Faculty Prioritization process during the fall semester, resulting in the mutual identification and support of needed faculty positions for replacement and growth of programs.

• The Research & Planning Office conducted an audit of environmental changes as a foundation to updating the strategic plan. Also, several studies were conducted to inform enrollment planning, decision and decisions.

• CRC developed and submitted sub change reports for the Elk Grove Center and Distance Education, which were successfully endorsed by the Commission, in an effort to maintain and sustain the college’s vision to maintain a high quality education.

• An Elk Grove Center Needs Study was completed and submitted to the State Chancellor’s Office.

IMPROVE ORGANIZATIONAL PROCESSES AND COMMUNICATION

• The College Planning Committee reviewed the Mission Statement and affirmed its relevancy and appropriateness inclusion of college priorities. The committee’s recommendation to affirm the Mission Statement in its current form will be presented to college constituency groups in the early spring.

• CRC Accreditation Tri-Chairs planned and held an Accreditation Kick-Off event to launch the college’s data gathering phase of the self-evaluation process. More than 50 faculty and staff participated in the kick-off session.

• Completed plan and are proceeding toward reduced overhead and integration of systems and staff to maximize bookstore operations across campuses.

• The transition from the old website to the new one was completed, giving a fresh, updated look that will enhance the user experience. Improvements include responsive web design that adjusts to the size of your device and better interactivity.

• The first I.T. plan was developed and approved by constituent groups.

• The Academic Senate developed a new Golden Hawk award for an exemplary faculty member or faculty group and also amended its Crystal Apple award guidelines to include adjunct faculty as awardees on an every other year basis.

• The Classified Senate implemented a Classified Recognition Program with the support of Professional Development resources. The program recognizes a college unit monthly for its contributions to student success.

• Computer upgrades took place across the college and wireless access improved.

FACILITATING CHANGES FOR ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

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**FIRSTS**

- CRC’s newest career/technical education program, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, prepared and submitted its initial accreditation self-study and received an accreditation team in late September 2013.

- The Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) charter club, as well as the Solar Club, participated in the annual northern California Solar Regatta, each building a solar boat to compete against other colleges and universities from Fresno to the Oregon border.

- The first Transfer Center Celebration took place, recognizing students who planned on transferring.

- CVPA implemented the division’s first Dean’s Visual Arts Scholarship, to acknowledge student creativity and improve aesthetics in the Division Office. Over 30 pieces of original student artwork were submitted, of which the scholarship committee selected five to be displayed in the CVPA Division office for one calendar year. Winners each received a $100 scholarship.

- Kinesiology, Health and Athletics division submitted a comprehensive proposal to add Women’s Swimming as a CRC sport, which will begin in the fall. A new sport has not been approved at CRC in at least 10 years.

- CRC’s first Model U.N. team was awarded the Slanczka Achievement Certificate in Diplomacy at the Model UN Fair West (MUNFW) Conference which took place in San Francisco.

- The Peterson’s educational resource guide for two-year colleges featured the Winn Center on the cover of its 2015 edition.

- The first Crisis Intervention Manual was developed and approved.

**ACCOLADES**

- Business Professor Man Phan has been awarded a seed grant from the Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) at UCLA Center for Global Management, SDSU and USC Marshall School of Business for the implementation of “Incorporation of International Business into Two Introductory Courses – Intro to Business 300 and Principles of Marketing 300 at CRC.”

- Anthropology Professor Amanda Paskey was awarded “Teacher of the Year” by the Society for Anthropology in Community Colleges.

- The Connection was honored with several awards at this year’s Journalism Association of Community College’s 59th Annual State Convention.

- The Conflict was honored with several awards at this year’s Journalism Association of Community College’s 59th Annual State Convention.

- Anthropology Professor Amanda Paskey was awarded “Teacher of the Year” by the Society for Anthropology in Community Colleges.

- Photography Professor Jim West was awarded a Nikon Scholarship award and recognized for the body of work he has produced over a career.

- English Professor Linda Swed won the Margaret Quan Part-Time Advocate of the Year from the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges Board of Governors.

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- The Conflict was honored with several awards at this year’s Journalism Association of Community College’s 59th Annual State Convention.

- Anthropology Professor Amanda Paskey was awarded “Teacher of the Year” by the Society for Anthropology in Community Colleges.

- Photography Professor Jim West was awarded a Nikon Scholarship award and recognized for the body of work he has produced over a career.