

# Kern River Valley Department

## Mid-Year Progress Report for Academic Year 2014-2015

March 2015

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## Mid-Year Progress

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#### Improve Community Awareness & Image

Community awareness and college image play a major role in current and future student success. Awareness allows community members the ability to understand how important a community college is to their future. Throughout the year, our site has been improving awareness of the college, as well as its image, by having employees present and known throughout the community. Advertising efforts have increased, and open houses at the college have become very well attended. As campus manager, I have been attending collaborative meetings, chamber of commerce meetings, local job fairs, and administering presentations at local service clubs throughout the different Kern River Valley communities in order to target the goal of increased awareness and improved image. Other outreach activities by our educational advisor, Reese Weltman, have included completing presentations at Owens Valley Career Development Center, manning information tables at Kern Valley High School (KVHS), and providing placement tests for KVHS and Camp Erwin Owen. Lastly, as campus manager, I have successfully re-conditioned students to no longer loiter or smoke in front of the college entrance, so that the college is more open and inviting to the public and its current students.

#### Expand Outreach and Early College Awareness

KRV has begun the initial steps in building a more productive relationship with the local high school (KVHS). My staff and I have participated in events hosted by the high school (i.e., Kern High School District's Principal Partners' Day), in order to show a community presence and support. Our site has also begun administering placement tests and providing the high school counselors with more information about CCCC and our programs. We are in the infant stage of this process. KVHS high school counselors brought 25 students to IWW's Career day in September 2014, where students were exposed to the main campus, etc. (this was the first time in the history of KVHS that this has ever occurred). In addition, CCCC's Dean of Career and Technical Education (CTE), the VP of Academic Affairs, and I have begun taking steps toward partnering with the high school in offering a CTE program of interest on their campus.

This year KRV has also begun the initial steps of building a newly formed outreach relationship with Camp Erwin Owens (a non-secure juvenile forestry camp that houses 125 wards between the ages of 14 and 18 committed by the Juvenile Court.). KRV site's educational advisor, Reese Weltman, has conducted outreach activities that focus on matriculation steps for the wards. The steps provided include college orientation, placement tests, and initial student education plans. Currently, our site is in the beginning stages of looking to offer an 8-week Counseling 101 course during the 2015-2016 academic year. This course introduces students to the process of academic and career planning by means of personal and group exercises, along with life skills such as critical thinking, resource management, and personal assessment.

#### Improving Student Experience/Engagement

This year, our focus has been on improving students' experience and engagement on campus by increasing awareness of financial assistance, and encouraging students to apply for scholarships through the CCCC Foundation and other educational foundations. Our site has also been promoting student success tools, such as Grad Guru, the Learning Resource/Assistance Center, and the completion of matriculation steps. Access Programs' students have been participating in field trips to California State University-Bakersfield, along with other educational destinations. In the upcoming 2015-2016 academic year, a renovation of the campus

facility will be completed; therefore, increasing our efforts to improve the student experience.