



IEC Executive Summary

Academic Year
2014-2015

Program Name: MESA

Major Program Goals:

1. Increase the number of economically and educationally disadvantaged students pursuing degrees in mathematics, engineering, science, and technology who are eligible to transfer to a four-year college or university.
2. Fully implement transfer agreements, mechanisms, and practices that enable MESA students to transfer to four-year colleges and universities.
3. Implement strategies to increase the rate at which MESA students are deemed transfer ready in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) majors.
4. Improve the academic performance of MESA students.
5. Increase the leadership skills and raise the educational expectations of MESA students.
6. Strengthen the relationships among educators, prospective employers in business and industry, and MESA students; establish student internships and other career opportunities.
7. Establish and maintain partnerships with MESA Engineering Programs (MEP), MESA Schools Programs (MSP), and California Alliance for Minority Participation, in order to provide students with optimum internship and scholarship opportunities.

Concerns/Trends:

1. Combination of TRiO and MESA counselors, elimination of one position.
2. Lack of funds for counseling support.
3. Lack of funds for technology to deliver services.
4. Students leave for other two year colleges, affecting MESA's transfer rate, due to lack of engineering program.

Plans for Addressing Concerns:

1. Apply for TRiO/STEM grant to expand on the MESA model.

IEC Recommendations:

1. Continue to seek funding for technology and counseling support.
2. Apply for additional funding to expand and further institutionalize MESA model.
3. Apply for additional funding to secure technology.
4. Work with engineering department to reinvigorate Engineering program for student retention.



Self Study Summary

Academic Year **Name of Program:** **MESA**
2014-2015

Gavilan College's MESA Program has a goal to help underrepresented students majoring in STEM based majors to transfer to four-year universities. The program has a holistic approach to serving students that includes intrusive counseling service, academic support with tutoring, leadership development, connections with business, an academic study center, and opportunities to develop a strong community of mutual support.

The following outline some of the programs significant accomplishments since the last review period.

Industry and Government Grant Funding

- Secured three separate grants from Lockheed Martin totaling \$20,000. This is the first industry funding that has ever been secured locally for MESA
- Applied for over a million dollars in additional federal funding to support the MESA program. We will be notified this summer if funding is awarded

Business and Industry Partnerships

- Partnership with UCSC's CALTEACH Program for STEM majors.
- Cisco Mentorship Program
- NASA Internships
- Lockheed Space Industries activities and grants

Student Achievement Transfer and Success

- Significant accomplishments that the program has achieved including having strong 3 year cohort transfer rates that range from 46%-49%.
- Notably MESA success in transfer rates for Hispanic students has increased from 41% to 52% which is significant given that the college has identified a significant inequity in the colleges Hispanic transfer rate.
- MESA Students success rates increased from Fall 2013 to Fall 2014 by about 10%, ASEM Student success rates from Fall 2013 to Fall 2014 increased by about 20%.
- MESA Students success rates in Fall 2014 were nearly 5% above the average of the college (MESA 75.66% College 71%)and ASEM Students success rates for Fall 2014 were about 9% above the average of the college (ASEM 80.43% College 71%) Long Term Impact
- Long term impacts have begun to become apparent as MESA Alum are now in Doctoral programs in astrophysics at Princeton University, Completing medical residencies on the path to becoming doctors and work for companies such as PG&E, Cisco Systems and Lockheed Space Industries The staffing for the program has resulted in several shifts. First the administrator for the program also began to oversee a second program, TRIO Student Support Services. Furthermore, the STEM Department Assistant began to provide administrative support for MESA via the STEM and TRIO grants. Lastly, the MESA counselor and STEM counselor were combined in an effort to maximize efforts in helping

STEM students. Trends that have continued to impact the program include the continued lack of funds allocated by the MESA grant which is only \$50,500 per academic year. The challenge is that additional funds are consistently having to be sought to continue the MESA model. The Engineering program being put on hold also poses a significant issue. Many students are starting to leave to other two year colleges before transferring. This can impact MESA's Transfer rates. Furthermore, it is difficult for the counselors to know how to help the students plan if they do not know what courses will be offered each semester. Future goals and objectives are contingent upon securing adequate funding to continue the MESA model. Ideally the model should be expanded but current resources do not make this possible.