

Palomar College Response
ARCCC
February 13, 2007

Palomar Community College serves a district of 2,500 square miles with a population of over 700,000. Each year more than 45,000 students attend the college and take classes at the San Marcos campus, one education center, or seven outreach sites. Over the past six years, as the region's population has grown by 9%, the college has experienced increased enrollment and the San Marcos campus is at capacity.

Palomar is recognized for the breadth and quality of its educational program offerings. Palomar provides over 250 AA degree and certificate programs and awards over 2,000 degrees and certificates annually. Each year, more than 1,000 students transfer to a CSU or UC, approximately 800 continue their studies at an in-state private or out-of-state university, and 2,000 become transfer prepared.

Overall, Palomar has demonstrated good levels of performance on all of the accountability indicators. The progress and achievement rate has remained stable over time and is similar to the system average. In 2004, a CSU within the county redefined its service area and Palomar transfer students are no longer defined as local transfers. As a result, Palomar students must now meet a different G.P.A. transfer criterion, affecting current and future students intending to transfer to this university.

For the most recent year, Palomar's level of performance on all other indicators is good and above the system average. Palomar's percentage of students earning at least 30 units or more, vocational course success rates, and basic skills success rates have increased over time. The persistence rate has remained relatively stable.

While the basic skills improvement rate experienced a slight decrease from 2003-04 to 2004-05, it is of note that both the basic skills improvement and course completion rates for the college are at or above its peer groups' averages. The progress and achievement rates, percentage of students earning 30 units or more, persistence, and vocational course success rates are lower than its peer groups' averages. Palomar's large and diverse district and vocational offerings make comparisons to its peers challenging. In 1999, Palomar implemented the *PeopleSoft*® Enterprise Resource Planning system with some difficulty. As a result, earlier data submitted to the system office for this report is not as accurate as more recent data. The college has implemented quality control procedures, and future reports based on more recent data will provide for a better assessment of the indicators.

As part of Palomar's planning process, the college is implementing strategies to improve its performance. These strategies include developing a plan to provide enhanced instruction and support services for basic skills students. Targeted outcomes are persistence, course success rates, and basic skills improvement rates. Over time, program completion and transfer rates for students needing to strengthen their foundational skills should improve as well. Finally, the college is implementing its facilities master plan and is working to increase instructional capacity. New and improved facilities will help Palomar meet student demand and support its students in achieving their educational goals. Palomar remains committed to its students and their success.