



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

CERRO COSO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY | KERN RIVER VALLEY | EAST KERN | BISHOP | MAMMOTH LAKES

June 8, 2016

Dear Chancellor Van Hook,

Cerro Coso Community College has made great strides over the past three years in addressing student success and completion as it relates to the principal guidelines defined by Achieving the Dream (ATD). When we started our journey by becoming an ATD College we were infants in the world of collecting and analyzing data, at the same time that our District had begun the mantra of “data-driven decision making”. It was the decision to become involved as an ATD institution through empowering our faculty leadership that laid a strong foundation which immersed us into this culture. At the closing of our first year of ATD work the State of California launched their new requirements having colleges address student equity data. It was at this nexus that our faculty leaders exclaimed how grateful they were that this work with ATD had come prior so they were prepared for the equity work required by the state.

Since this start, it has been the goal of the college leadership to grow the roots of this work across the college so that it becomes part of our institutional culture. This is evidenced by the revised 2015-2018 College Strategic Plan which has objectives, strategies, and action plans to address advancing student equity measures by closing achievement gaps and to improve milestone achievements in the areas of basic skills. In addition to the college walking out these strategies and action plans, there are also plans that dovetail into the strategic plan which were developed for use of Student Success and Support Program funding as well as Student Equity funds that were completed with input from the SSSP Committee. Lastly, all annual planning documents, which drive funding requests, include disaggregated data to respond to in order to keep the college focused on what is working and what isn't in terms of strategies to increase student success.

This said, institutionalizing this work is our needed focus. While the college receives centralized support from the District IR Office at Kern Community College District, and while this office is highly effective, it does not have the capacity to meet the needs of the college in developing a culture of inquiry and ensuring that decisions are data informed. The other is the limited knowledge and understanding of Cerro Coso's culture, processes, student populations,

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communities served and college infrastructure necessary to assist the institution in continuing to make improvements on institutional effectiveness and student achievement outcomes. This knowledge can only truly develop with a researcher who is integrated on the college campus. Additionally, six years ago we hired a Data Analyst who was to provide our institution with research assistance, however for several reasons it did not end well. Hence, we moved to a centralized model.

Therefore, we are requesting PRT assistance to assist us in the integrating a researcher into our institution so that we are utilizing this position to its maximum capacity and for seed money of \$150,000 to offset the cost of the first year salary/benefits and professional development of the research position.

The outcome we are working towards is in the end to have a well-established and integrated research agenda being done by the researcher who is supporting our various department's needs in order to increase our institutional effectiveness.

The best time for the first visit would be the week of September 12th or September 19th. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jill Board". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jill" and last name "Board" clearly distinguishable.

Jill Board