

FULLERTON COLLEGE

ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

2009



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Environmental Scan of the Fullerton College Community

This is the seventh occasional report designed to provide a comprehensive look at the external environment impacting Fullerton College. It summarizes the demographic, economic and educational changes at the state and national levels, in general, and in Orange County and the cities served by Fullerton College, more specifically, that are shaping the future for the college.

The Environmental Scan of the Fullerton College community and Orange County also serves as a companion piece to the 2009 Fullerton College Fact Book, a comprehensive internal overview that describes the college's student population and how effectively it is being served by the college. Together, these two documents provide important information about the changing forces affecting Fullerton College as it moves forward in the 21st century. By monitoring these changes, Fullerton College will be in a better position to plan a direction that will best serve its students.

PART I. DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

The 2000 Decennial Census showed that Orange County had a population of 2,846,289, an increase of nearly 20% since the 1990 census. With a 2009 population of over 3.1 million, Orange County continues to grow. While the growth rate has slowed to just over 2% over the past five years, population has increased by nearly 100,000 since 2005. Growth for the Fullerton College community cities was only slightly less at 17.1%, with Anaheim growing nearly 25%. Over the past year, Fullerton College community cities mirrored the county growth of slightly less than 1%.

As the population has continued to grow in north Orange County, Fullerton College has seen greater demands placed upon its educational resources, facilities and programs. Population growth is projected to continue at high levels, exceeding the national average of about 10% for this decade.

TOTAL POPULATION THROUGH 2009

Table 1: Population in Orange County, California and the U.S. through 2009

Area	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Change 2005 - 2009
Orange County	3,044,980	3,063,159	3,080,383	3,107,500	3,139,017	2.1%
California	36,676,931	37,086,191	37,472,074	37,883,992	38,292,687	3.3%
United States	296,410,404	299,359,000	293,656,842	296,410,404	299,359,000	3.9%

Sources: *State of California, Department of Finance, E-4 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State, 2001–2009, with 2000 Benchmark. Sacramento, California, May 2009.*; U. S. Bureau of the Census

COMMUNITY LEVEL POPULATION THROUGH 2009

Table 2: Population in Fullerton College Community through 2009

City	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Change 2005 - 2009
Anaheim	341,189	341,159	342,990	345,349	348,467	1.2%
Brea	39,402	39,447	39,571	39,910	40,176	1.3%
Fullerton	135,114	136,089	136,446	136,992	137,624	1.4%
La Habra	61,489	61,613	62,020	62,370	62,822	1.4%
Placentia	50,090	50,988	51,110	51,405	51,932	2.6%
Yorba Linda	65,319	66,455	67,245	67,866	68,399	3.9%
Total	692,603	695,751	699,382	703,892	709,420	1.6%

Source: *State of California, Department of Finance, E-4 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State, 2001–2009, with 2000 Benchmark. Sacramento, California, May 2009.*

Total Population: Changes to the Year 2030

According to projections by the California Department of Finance, total population in Orange County is projected to grow by 11.9% between 2000 and 2010. And according to projections by the Center for Demographic Research at California State University, Fullerton, the population of the Fullerton College community is projected to grow by 10.0% during the same period. This compares to projected state growth of 16.4% and the nation's 8.6%. While the projected percentage increase in the Fullerton College community and Orange County will not keep pace with the state's projected growth, there will be a projected population growth of over 30,000 in the Fullerton College community and nearly 350,000 in Orange County through this decade.

By the year 2030, Orange County is projected to grow by nearly 33% over its 2000 levels, compared with the state's 51.1% and the nation's 26.6%. By the year 2025, the Fullerton College community is projected to grow by 18%, representing a population increase of over 100,000.

Not only have Orange County and the Fullerton College community seen tremendous growth over the last 20 years, the area will grow substantially over the next 10 years and beyond. Evaluation of population changes as they relate to plans for facility and program development are critical to the college's ability to meet the educational needs of the area's citizens and the workforce needs of the community. And understanding and anticipating population growth by community provides important information for recruiting new students to the colleges, as well as locating off-campus programs to meet community needs.

Table 3: Population Projections for Orange County, California and the U.S. through 2030

Area	2000	2010	2020	2030	Projected Change to 2020	Projected Change to 2030
Orange County	2,863,834	3,227,836	3,520,265	3,705,322	22.9 %	29.4 %
California	34,105,437	39,135,676	44,135,923	49,240,891	29.4 %	44.4 %
United States	282,125,000	310,233,000	341,387,000	373,504,000	21.0 %	32.4 %

Sources: U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Projections of the Population and Components of Change for the United States: 2010 to 2050*; State of California, Department of Finance, *Population Projections for California and Its Counties 2000-2050*, Sacramento, California, July 2007.

COMMUNITY LEVEL POPULATION: CHANGES TO THE YEAR 2030

Table 4: Population Changes in Fullerton College Community through 2030

City	2000	2010	2020	2030	Projected Change to 2020	Projected Change to 2030
Anaheim	328,014	365,495	401,750	425,781	22.5%	29.8%
Brea	35,410	42,281	46,031	46,751	30.0%	32.0%
Fullerton	126,003	142,939	148,862	152,495	18.1%	21.0%
La Habra	58,794	65,773	67,812	68,618	15.3%	16.7%
Placentia	46,488	52,352	58,366	61,456	25.6%	32.2%
Yorba Linda	58,918	71,463	74,988	76,398	27.3%	29.7%
Total	653,627	740,303	797,809	831,499	22.1%	27.2%

Source: California State University, Fullerton, Center for Demographic Research

ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF THE TOTAL POPULATION CENSUS 2000

The ethnic and racial mix of California, Orange County and the Fullerton College community has been rapidly changing for the past 10 years. The inclusion of new racial/ethnic categories in Census 2000 has allowed individuals to indicate two or more races for the first time in United States history. California has been a non-majority state for several years, and Orange County no longer has a white majority. The cities comprising the Fullerton College service area also have no racial majority. Both Anaheim and La Habra now have Hispanic pluralities.

In 2000, 1.5% of the Orange County population was African American, 13.8% was Asian/Pacific Islander, 30.8% was Hispanic, 0.3% was American Indian/Alaskan Native and 51.2% was White, 0.2% was Other, and 2.3% was two or more races.

Table 5: Proportions of the Population by Ethnicity in Orange County and California: Census 2000

Area	African American	Asian/Pacific Islander	Hispanic	American Indian/Alaskan Native	White	Other	Two or More Races
Fullerton College	3.1%	14.6%	32.1%	0.7%	42.6%	0.8%	-
Orange County	1.5%	13.8%	30.8%	0.3%	51.2%	-	2.3%
California	6.4%	11.1%	32.4%	0.5%	46.7%	-	2.7%

Source: Fullerton College Office of Institutional Research, U.S. Bureau of the Census

Table 6: Proportions of the Population by Ethnicity in Orange County and California: 2008

Area	African American	American Indian/Alaskan Native	Asian/Pacific Islander	Hispanic	White	Other	Two or More Races
Fullerton College	3.5%	0.7%	17.6%	35.6%	33.8%	1.8%	-
Orange County	1.9%	0.9%	15.8%	32.2%	48.7%	-	2.0%
California	6.0%	0.5%	12.5%	36.6%	42.3%		2.1%

Source: Fullerton College Office of Institutional Research, U.S. Bureau of the Census

Table 7: Fullerton College Community Population by Ethnicity: Census 2000

City	African American	Asian/Pacific Islander	Hispanic	American Indian/Alaskan Native	White	Other	Two or More Races
Anaheim	7,939	40,182	153,374	1,049	117,607	457	7,406
Brea	409	3,255	7,205	111	23,541	57	832
Fullerton	2,675	20,381	38,014	404	61,420	237	2,872
La Habra	808	3,521	28,922	188	24,399	95	1,041
Placentia	746	5,186	14,460	177	24,967	61	891
Yorba Linda	638	6,552	6,044	139	44,071	138	1,336
Total	13,215	79,077	248,019	2,068	296,005	1,045	14,378

Source: State of California, Department of Finance.

In 2000, 2.0% of the Fullerton College service area population was African American, 12.1% was Asian/Pacific Islander, 37.9% was Hispanic, 0.3% was American Indian/Alaskan Native, 45.3% was White, 0.2% was Other, and 2.2% was two or more races.

Table 8: Fullerton College Community Population Percentage by Ethnicity: Census 2000

City	African American	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Hispanic	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	White	Other	Two or More Races
Anaheim	2.4%	12.3%	46.8%	0.3%	35.9%	0.1%	2.3%
Brea	1.2%	9.2%	20.3%	0.3%	66.5%	0.2%	2.3%
Fullerton	2.1%	16.2%	30.2%	0.3%	48.7%	0.2%	2.3%
La Habra	1.4%	6.0%	49.0%	0.3%	41.4%	0.2%	1.8%
Placentia	1.6%	11.2%	31.1%	0.4%	53.7%	0.1%	1.9%
Yorba Linda	1.1%	11.1%	10.3%	0.2%	74.8%	0.2%	2.3%
Total	2.0%	12.1%	37.9%	0.3%	45.3%	0.2%	2.2%

Source: State of California, Department of Finance.

CHANGES IN THE ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF THE TOTAL POPULATION THROUGH 2040

Table 9: Projected Population by Ethnicity in Orange County and California through 2040

		African American	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Hispanic	White	Multirace
Orange County	2000	43,532	8,992	406,727	886,127	1,472,752	45,704
	2010	44,873	12,880	529,670	1,158,270	1,419,887	62,256
	2020	43,893	13,873	631,938	1,465,316	1,294,712	70,533
	2030	40,410	15,423	696,698	1,765,105	1,107,029	80,657
	2040	35,518	16,587	749,371	2,072,192	886,933	89,049
California	2000	2,218,281	185,996	3,872,349	11,057,467	16,134,334	637,010
	2010	2,287,190	240,721	4,833,883	14,512,817	16,438,784	822,281
	2020	2,390,459	299,599	5,724,359	18,261,267	16,508,783	951,456
	2030	2,475,477	350,649	6,581,082	22,335,895	16,377,652	1,120,136
	2040	2,573,246	395,591	7,427,182	26,551,422	16,033,854	1,284,820

Source: State of California, Department of Finance, *Population Projections for California and Its Counties 2000-2050*, Sacramento, California, July 2007.

Table 10: Projected Population Percent by Ethnicity in Orange County and California to 2040

		African American	American Indian/Alaskan Native	Asian/Pacific Islander	Hispanic	White	Multirace
Orange County	2000	1.5%	0.3%	14.2%	30.9%	51.4%	1.6%
	2010	1.4%	0.4%	16.4%	35.9%	44.0%	1.9%
	2020	1.2%	0.4%	18.0%	41.6%	36.8%	2.0%
	2030	1.1%	0.4%	18.8%	47.6%	29.9%	2.2%
	2040	0.9%	0.4%	19.5%	53.8%	23.0%	2.3%
California	2000	6.5%	0.5%	11.4%	32.4%	47.3%	1.9%
	2010	5.8%	0.6%	12.4%	37.1%	42.0%	2.1%
	2020	5.4%	0.7%	13.0%	41.4%	37.4%	2.2%
	2030	5.0%	0.7%	13.4%	45.4%	33.3%	2.3%
	2040	4.7%	0.7%	13.7%	48.9%	29.5%	2.4%

Source: State of California, Department of Finance, *Population Projections for California and Its Counties 2000-2050*, Sacramento, California, July 2007.

These projections indicate that Orange County will have a Hispanic majority by 2040 and that the Asian proportion of the population will also increase to nearly equal the white proportion of the population. Noting changes in the ethnic composition of the population, particularly growth of groups that have traditionally been under-represented in higher education is important to understand. Support services that are needed may be different for student groups that have traditionally been under-represented, as their numbers begin to increase. These data indicate that there is stronger growth in population groups that have traditionally been under-represented in higher education. These changes will have important planning implications for the college.

PART II: EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL AGE POPULATION: CHANGES THROUGH 2008-2009

Table 11: Public School Enrollment in Orange County and California, 2004-2005 to 2008-2009

	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	Change 2005 - 2009
Orange County	513,744	510,114	503,955	503,225	504,136	-1.9%
California	6,322,141	6,312,436	6,286,943	6,275,469	6,252,031	-1.1%

Source: State of California, Department of Education, Data Quest (<http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>).

Table 12: Public School Enrollment Projections for Orange County and California to 2013-14

	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	Change 2010 – 2014
Orange County	503,299	499,584	495,837	491,921	487,455	-3.1%
California	6,223,967	6,226,723	6,240,880	6,260,026	6,268,202	0.7%

State of California, Department of Finance, *California Public K-12 Graded Enrollment and High School Graduate Projections by County, 2009 Series*. Sacramento, California, October 2009.

Table 13: Public School Enrollment in Fullerton College Feeder High School Districts, 2004-2005 to 2008-2009

	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	Change 2005 - 2009
Anaheim	32,975	33,112	33,076	33,343	33,719	2.3%
Brea-Olinda	2,136	2,196	2,156	2,160	2,137	0.0%
Fullerton	16,742	16,299	16,499	16,321	16,343	-2.4%
Placentia-Yorba Linda	8,348	8,602	8,710	8,793	8,764	5.0%

Source: State of California, Department of Education, Data Quest (<http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>).

Public school enrollment has declined slightly over the past five years and is projected to continue to decline in Orange County for the next five years. Within the areas primarily served by Fullerton College, only Fullerton has shown an enrollment decline, with Placentia-Yorba Linda actually growing by 5% over the past five years. The so-called Tidal Wave II has crested and there will be fewer high school graduates in the foreseeable future.

Table 14: Fullerton College Top 10 Feeder High Schools: Demographic Indicators

School	Total Students	Percent Hispanic	Percent Free or Reduced Lunch	Percent English Language Learners	Percent Disadvantaged	Percent Parents College Graduates
Anaheim	3,262	92%	75%	36%	83%	6%
Brea Olinda	2,056	22%	16%	6%	15%	36%
El Dorado	2,568	20%	14%	4%	12%	34%
Esperanza	3,126	13%	9%	2%	7%	38%
Fullerton	2,065	53%	56%	14%	41%	18%
Katella	2,749	80%	61%	27%	64%	12%
La Habra	2,266	58%	35%	14%	27%	23%
Sonora	2,126	54%	33%	17%	26%	24%
Sunny Hills	2,631	21%	15%	9%	14%	40%
Troy	2,640	17%	12%	5%	8%	35%

Source: State of California, Department of Education, Data Quest (<http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>).

Table 15: Fullerton College Top 10 Feeder High Schools: Academic Indicators

School	API Score	API Rank	API Comp Rank	Percent UC/CSU Eligible Grads	Language Arts Proficient	Math Proficient
Anaheim	701	4	9	13%	31%	13%
Brea-Olinda	804	9	3	55%	63%	47%
El Dorado	811	9	5	48%	63%	50%
Esperanza	832	10	5	53%	69%	65%
Fullerton	768	8	9	31%	53%	28%
Katella	690	4	6	27%	36%	19%
La Habra	778	8	8	31%	51%	38%
Sonora	762	7	4	30%	54%	26%
Sunny Hills	855	10	6	54%	69%	48%
Troy	917	10	10	57%	85%	72%

Source: State of California, Department of Education, Data Quest (<http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>).

The selected indicators reveal great variability in the characteristics of the top feeder high schools to Fullerton College and point to some of the challenges facing the faculty, staff, and administration of the college in both providing access and promoting success. Many of the students who will be entering Fullerton College over the next several years are from under-represented groups, have fewer economic resources, are English language learners, and first-generation college-goers. Relatively few have pursued an educational program which prepared them for entry to California State University or University of California campuses, though the percentage of local high school graduates who are UC/CSU eligible and the percentages who have demonstrated proficiency in language arts and math have been increasing for the past several years.

Table 16. Higher Education Going Rates of Fullerton College Feeder High Schools

High School	Total Graduates	Fullerton College	Total CCC	Total CSU	Total UC	Total Higher Education	Fullerton College Going Rate	Public Higher Education Going Rate
Anaheim	503	167	246	34	14	294	33%	58%
Cypress	527	20	228	94	50	372	4%	71%
Katella	436	88	190	44	15	249	20%	57%
Kennedy	537	37	207	108	49	364	7%	68%
Loara	478	85	217	67	31	315	18%	66%
Magnolia	327	43	133	23	28	184	13%	56%
Savanna	386	83	179	38	16	233	22%	60%
Western	342	22	158	25	19	202	6%	59%
Brea-Olinda	503	133	179	82	53	314	26%	62%
Buena Park	399	54	121	48	19	188	14%	47%
Fullerton	448	154	198	60	25	283	34%	63%
La Habra	493	141	215	58	16	289	29%	59%
Sonora	381	122	172	42	34	248	32%	65%
Sunny Hills	597	173	250	88	100	438	29%	73%
Troy	503	81	111	67	81	259	16%	51%
El Dorado	562	165	243	96	31	370	29%	66%
Esperanza	734	105	286	119	54	459	14%	63%
Valencia	508	114	213	70	31	314	22%	62%
Total	8,664	1,787	3,546	1,163	666	5,375	21%	62%

Source: California Postsecondary Education Commission, Online Data System, <http://www.cpec.ca.gov/OnLineData/OnLineData.asp>

Significant differences exist between the Fullerton College going-rate and the overall community college going-rate, indicating high schools. Outreach efforts at the high school level may attract additional students from high schools such as Esperanza and Katella.

PART III. ECONOMIC TRENDS

Importance of Economic Changes

Community colleges are the higher education segment providing workforce education that is most directly related to the local area economy. Understanding the changing nature of the area's economy is critical to aligning current academic programs as well as developing new academic programs that meet the needs of local business and industry. What follows is a synopsis of the key economic changes in Orange County important to educational planning in Fullerton College.

The Employment Base

Table 17: Civilian Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment for Orange County

Measures	2006	2007	2008	2009	Change 2006 – 2009
Civilian Labor Force	1,619,100	1,630,500	1,652,000	1,646,000	1.7%
Employed	1,557,700	1,561,500	1,559,500	1,487,600	-4.5%
Unemployed	61,500	69,000	92,600	158,400	157.6%
Unemployment Percent	3.8%	4.2%	5.6%	9.6%	5.8%

Source: California Employment Development Department

Table 18: Civilian Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment for Fullerton College Area, July, 2009

Measures	Anaheim	Brea	Fullerton	La Habra	Placentia	Yorba Linda
Civilian Labor Force	181,300	21,800	73,400	32,600	28,700	36,000
Employed	159,000	20,300	65,500	29,100	26,200	33,700
Unemployed	22,300	1,400	7,900	3,500	2,500	2,300
Unemployment Percent	12.3%	6.6%	10.8%	10.9%	8.6%	6.4%

Source: California Employment Development Department

These data clearly show the difficult economic condition of the state and the local area. The civilian labor force has declined for the first time this century and the number of unemployed in the county has increased by nearly 100,000 over the past three years, with a local unemployment rate nearly matching the high statewide unemployment rate. Anaheim has been particularly hard hit by the economic decline, with a high unemployment rate and over 20,000 unemployed workers. These economic conditions typically lead to increased demand for educational services and have resulted in record enrollments at Fullerton College. As long as these conditions persist, demand will be high. Responding to this demand, particularly with dwindling resources, will require careful planning and resource allocation.

Table 19: Employment by Industry in Orange County: 2008 and 2009

Industry	July 2008	July 2009	Change	Percent Change
Goods Producing	267,400	242,800	-24,600	-9.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	271,300	252,800	-18,500	-6.8%
Information	30,400	27,800	-2,600	-8.6%
Financial Activities	113,900	108,700	-5,200	-4.6%
Professional and Business Services	268,100	256,500	-11,600	-4.3%
Educational and Health Services	146,900	148,400	1,500	1.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	181,400	176,100	-5,300	-2.9%
Other Services	48,900	47,900	-1,000	-2.0%
Government	156,200	155,100	-1,100	-0.7%
Total	1,484,500	1,416,100	-68,400	-4.6%

Source: California Employment Development Department

Table 20: Projected Growth in Top 10 Orange County Occupations Requiring an Associate Degree or Post-Secondary Vocational Training

Occupation	2006	2016	Change	Percent Change
Registered Nurses	17,780	21,660	3,880	21.8%
Medical Secretaries	8,410	10,150	1,740	20.7%
Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	7,300	8,420	1,120	15.3%
Computer Support Specialists	7,870	8,840	970	12.3%
Legal Secretaries	3,610	4,370	760	21.1%
Dental Hygienists	2,240	2,990	750	33.5%
Paralegals and Legal Assistants	2,330	3,060	730	31.3%
Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists	5,290	6,010	720	13.6%
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	4,560	5,250	690	15.1%
Computer Specialists, All Other	4,080	4,690	610	15.0%

Source: California Employment Development Department

Table 21: Projected Growth in Top 10 Orange County Occupations Requiring a Four-Year Degree

Occupation	2006	2016	Change	Percent Change
Business Operations Specialists, All Other	15,020	18,600	3,580	23.8%
Computer Software Engineers, Applications	9,650	13,100	3,450	35.8%
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	10,290	13,490	3,200	31.1%
Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Vocational Education	13,340	16,290	2,950	22.1%
Accountants and Auditors	15,210	18,010	2,800	18.4%
Middle School Teachers, Except Special and Vocational Education	5,790	7,450	1,660	28.7%
Teachers and Instructors, All Other	6,970	8,440	1,470	21.1%
Network Systems and Data Communications Analysts	2,800	4,250	1,450	51.8%
Computer Systems Analysts	4,850	6,080	1,230	25.4%
Construction Managers	6,700	7,670	970	14.5%

Source: California Employment Development Department

PART IV. POLITICAL AND SOCIAL TRENDS IMPACTING FULLERTON COLLEGE

Importance of Monitoring Political Trends

National, state and local level priorities in both the policy and fiscal arenas greatly influence direction setting for North Orange County Community College District and Fullerton College. Several key issues are likely to impact local policy. These include issues related to: accountability; accreditation; budget; general enrollment growth, as it relates to facilities planning; local population growth and feeder school enrollments; and distance learning.

Accountability

Accountability remains a top priority, particularly at the system office and legislature. The institution of the statewide Accountability Reporting for Community Colleges, with annual review by local boards of trustees, may be the beginning of an even greater focus on accountability. The ARCC report has been supplemented in the past year with a special section on basic skills outcomes, as the Department of Finance and the Office of the Legislative Analyst scrutinize the Basic Skills Initiative expenditures, with a high expectation for improved success. And, while the accreditation standards from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges have focused on the identification and measurement of student learning outcomes, the standards continue to include evidence of a focus on institutional effectiveness. Several legislative proposals have moved in the direction of incorporating student learning outcomes in a new state accountability reporting system and a K-16 statewide data system is in the development phase. The idea of performance based funding continues to circulate among legislators.

Accreditation

Accountability challenges related to performance are requiring more comprehensive monitoring of student outcomes data related to special initiatives developed to improve student performance. And the new WASC AACJC accreditation standards require colleges to evaluate student outcomes beyond the institutional effectiveness emphasis of the previous standards. The new standards place strong emphasis on measuring true learning outcomes, not simply grades in courses and course retention and success. In addition, the standards have re-emphasized the need for integration of the college's many planning activities, with an emphasis on the integration of program review, planning and budgeting. ACCJC has provided several rubrics for evaluation of colleges' development of program review, planning and identification and assessment of student learning outcomes, with high expectations for colleges to attain the 'continuous quality improvement' stage in those areas. Fullerton College has begun its self-study for the re-affirmation of accreditation, with the accreditation team visit scheduled for spring 2011. Previous recommendations of the commission provide one focus for Fullerton College planning.; the college's own planning agenda outlines ambitious directions for the college. These challenges will require a coordinated research and evaluation effort throughout the college and increased emphasis on assessment of student learning outcomes, in both the general education core and in specific disciplines, and incorporation of results in planning for increased student success.

Budget

Shortfalls in the California budget in the recent budget years have had severe consequences for Fullerton College. The college has been forced to curtail the summer session, eliminate about ten percent of class offerings in the fall and spring terms and eliminate winter intersession. The severe budget cuts to several important areas in student services and faculty and staff development have led to curtailment of services, particularly in counseling. But there has been no decrease in the demand for educational services and enrollment in fall 2009 was the highest in the college's history. While this has increased efficiency and productivity at the college, students, faculty and staff have faced difficulties in accommodating student demand. Planning of enrollment growth must be carefully monitored. Construction project costs have added an additional challenge to budgeting at Fullerton College. Projections for the next several years indicate that the state of California will continue to face budget shortfalls and may be forced to make deeper cuts in appropriation to community colleges.

Enrollment Growth and Facilities Planning

Projections indicate that Fullerton College will face a growing student population over the next decade. Accommodating two to three percent enrollment growth annually over the next several years will provide a major facilities planning challenge for the college. In addition, modernization of infrastructure, construction of new facilities, planned maintenance, technology growth, and adequate parking will require significant resources. The addition of significant distance education efforts has engendered additional significant planning and coordination efforts. Continued construction on the campus has contributed significantly to meeting the facilities demand while at the same time adding to the planning demand and budget challenges.

Distance Learning

Distance education has become a major component of educational offerings at Fullerton College, with increased enrollment each year over the past decade. Enrollments in distance education have tripled over the past five years, with about 10% of all enrollments now in either hybrid or fully online classes. With the expansion of on-line learning opportunities for students, issues of faculty training and development, intellectual property rights, adequacy of technical infrastructure and evaluation of learning are becoming major pieces of the accountability concerns for this relatively new mode of student learning. Preparation of students for and evaluation of learning in distance education programs is becoming an important priority for all institutions of higher education.

Importance of These Political Trends

These five political trends are likely to have an important influence on setting the policy agenda for the district for the upcoming year and beyond. All have important implications for budget planning, program planning, research, evaluation and communication across the college and with the large community of which it is an integral part.