

GCCCD Scan Team Process Summary of Trends And Findings

Society

Society Trend 1: San Diego County is receiving an increasing number of refugees. Many of these refugees come from Iraq, and choose to settle in east San Diego County (particularly El Cajon), where there is a growing community of Chaldean Iraqis.

Society Trend 2: Technology is having immense impacts on the ways people interact and communicate, leading to a growing desire for more natural interactions.

Society Trend 3: Increasing focus on the value of the arts and humanities.

Technology

Technology Trend 1: Continued growth in online courses.

Technology Trend 2: Increasing demand for mobile access to learning resources.

Technology Trend 3: New ways of creating, publishing and accessing information using technology.

Technology Trend 4: Technology is used to support communication and collaboration.

Technology Trend 5: Technology places new demands on curriculum and instruction.

Economy

Economy Trend 1: The jobs that are open require different skills sets than the skills unemployed workers have, resulting in structural unemployment that has led to a “jobless recovery” from the recession and that may cause a semi-permanent increase in the level of base unemployment.

Economy Trend 2: The jobs that pay the best wages generally require technical skills and training; wages for individuals with only a high school diploma are stagnating.

Economy Trend 3: There is increasing demand for post-secondary educational institutions to provide skills training and preparation for targeted occupations. Many students, however, must go deeply into debt to pay for postsecondary education.

Economy Trend 4: There is an increasing focus on Green Jobs

Environment

Environment Trend 1: There is increasing urgency in the recognition of the need to make significant changes to maintain the ability of the Earth to support its human population.

Environment Trend 2: Environmental sustainability is a growing issue for colleges and universities.

Environment Trend 3: The availability of water is an issue of growing concern in San Diego.

Environment Trend 4: There is growing investment and development of the sustainable energy sector.

Politics and Legal Issues

Politics and Legal Trend 1: More legislative/state intervention to increase productivity or affect the operations of the community colleges.

Politics and Legal Trend 2: More Federal attention to community colleges includes expectations for increased productivity and accountability for student outcomes. However, to date new federal funding for community colleges has been concentrated in workforce training programs.

Education

Education Trend 1: Technology is increasing access to information around the world and having a pervasive influence on education.

Education Trend 2: An older, more diverse student body will expect to be treated as customers.

Education Trend 3: Increasing demands for efficiency and accountability.

Education Trend 4: Increasing attention to and demands on basic skills/developmental education.

Education Trend 5: Declining taxpayer funding restricts access and puts more financial pressure on colleges and students.

Education Trend 6: Trends in technology and demands for accountability affect priorities for funding of programs and disciplines.