



The 2nd Annual Strategic Conversation

**Presented to Board of Trustees
January 8, 2013**

Dr. George Railey

Focus: Student Success & Learning

- The Board of Trustees and selected internal participants will receive an article to frame the discussion and snapshot data from the following sources:
 - *District Data Profile*
 - *Accountability Reporting for the California Community Colleges (ARCC) Data*
- **Strategic Conversation:**
 - On February 5, 2013 the Board of Trustees will invite students and district employees from all constituent groups to engage with them in an informal, but structured dialogue about the themes that emerged from their Visioning process.

What Is a Strategic Conversation?

A Strategic Conversation is an informal, but structured discussion on a strategic policy issue that results in a clearer understanding of that issue.

A Strategic Conversation helps an organization or board thoughtfully examine why it is making the policy decisions it makes, while connecting and involving all internal stakeholders affected by those decisions in a positive and meaningful way.

- Topics reflect policy issues facing the Board of Trustees, rather than operational issues.
- The process, timeline, the planning group, participants, and outcomes for SCCCD has been documented in a report that will be posted on the district's website and highlighted in this presentation.

Timeline

- The Strategic Conversation is a two hour structured dialogue that is preceded by a one-hour reception with the Board of Trustees.
- The Board of Trustees of SCCCD will host a Strategic Conversation Tuesday, February 5, 2013.
- Social Hour with refreshments 1:00-2:00pm.
- Strategic Conversation event 2:00-4:00pm.
- The event will be held at Fresno City College in Old Administration Building #251.
- The Board of Trustees meeting immediately follows this event at 4:30pm. A shuttle will transport the Trustees to the District Office from the OAB.



Planning for Strategic Conversation

- As Strategic Conversation is a Board driven event, the workgroup is chaired by a member of the Board of Trustees.
- Other members of the Strategic Conversation workgroup include Chancellor's Cabinet.
- Dr. Jothany Blackwood will also work directly with the planning group to provide support for the event.
- Weekly planning updates will occur as part of the Chancellor's Cabinet meetings, with additional meetings scheduled to accommodate Board members' schedules.



Participants

- The invitation to participate in Strategic Conversation is limited to internal participants including board members, student leaders, faculty, classified and management employees of the district.
- The district office will send out an electronic invitation with the topic on behalf of the Board to only internal stakeholders.
- Prior to the Strategic Conversation, participants will receive an article on student success that will provide the framework for the session, as well as a brief snapshot of relevant student data.
- Participants will also receive a second document titled Strategic Conversation: Just the Facts that defines the process and answers frequently asked questions.

The Process

- Upon check-in, participants will be initially assigned to tables to ensure a balance of constituent groups. Each table will have a pre-designated facilitator and recorder and the speaker will be selected from the guests.
- **Opening:** The session will be opened by the hosting college president and a Board member will provide the purpose of the event and framework of the topic of discussion.
- **Part 1:** Each table will respond to the same question and are allotted 30 minutes to brainstorm responses. This will be led by the table facilitator and recorded on both a form for the district's collection of findings as well as on a whitepaper for the audience. Each table will provide a 2-3 minute report out.
- **Break:** During a 15 minute break, a team will synthesize the responses and identify the themes which will be identified by table. Another Board member will open up the second session.
- **Part 2:** Participants will self-select a table based on their interest and expertise on the topics listed by table. Table facilitators and recorders will continue their roles at the same table with new participants and brainstormed resolutions for the topic. Each table will provide a 2-3 minute report out.
- **Closing:** The Chancellor will close the event and findings from the Strategic Conversation will be synthesized and forwarded to all internal stakeholders. It will also become a part of the official minutes of the Board of Trustees.

Outcomes

- Engage Board members and internal constituent groups in discussion of a specific district-wide strategic issue.
- Identify strategies in response to the findings from the Strategic Conversation which can be vetted through district and college governance processes.
- Integrate comprehensive strategies identified in the Strategic Conversation into district-wide and/or college planning processes.
- Revise goals and objectives of the District-wide Strategic Plan, during the annual review, based on findings from Strategic Conversation if applicable.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS