ABSTRACT: ANYTIME, ANYWHERE PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

Los Angeles City College (City) in Los Angeles and West Los Angeles City College in Culver City, California, both public two-year Hispanic-Serving Institutions, have come together to propose a cooperative project, ANYTIME, ANYWHERE PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS. The project will 1) increase the enrollment and completion rates of Latino students in our adjacent service areas, and 2) develop and share resources to enhance each institution’s ability to serve the needs of low-income and Latino students.

Brief Profiles and Needs:
City (enrollment 17,636) and West (10,932) are public, comprehensive independent colleges in the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD). They serve dense, urban areas of west, central and south central Los Angeles, where higher education attainment is low and poverty rates are high, especially for Latinos. More than one-third of students at both colleges work at least part-time to support themselves or their families.

“Anytime, Anywhere Pathways to Success” Project: With City as the lead institution, the proposed cooperative project is designed to help overcome significant barriers many residents face to accessing the predominately traditional on campus face-to-face delivery of higher education at City and West. With over 9,900 Latino students at City and West, increasing the educational goal attainment of Latino and other students has become a critical priority as three-year graduation rates (12% at City, 9% at West) are unacceptably low. Analysis of each institution’s strengths and weaknesses reveals that competing work and family responsibilities, in addition to the sheer difficulty of traveling around Los Angeles, keep many students from succeeding in traditional, campus-based programs.

To expand opportunity, access, and persistence for Latino and low-income time- and place-bound students, City and West will expand curricular offerings available via distance education by developing an online A.A. Degree in Liberal Arts and adding three new online/hybrid certificates in high-need fields (Renewable Energy, Animation, and Digital Media).

Recognizing that courses alone are not enough to help students succeed, the project will develop online student services, including tutoring, financial aid and library services. Rigorous faculty development will support all project efforts and will enable the ongoing conversion and revision of courses and services for distance delivery. All are designed to provide students with well-defined pathways to success, anytime, anywhere.

Total Amount Requested over 5 Years is: $3,867,151