

California State University San Marcos Access to Excellence Campus Conversation Report

Background and Summary:

Beginning at noon on February 14, 2007, members of the CSU San Marcos community gathered in the Clarke Field House to contribute to the CSU's next phase of strategic planning—Access to Excellence. The Clarke Field House was packed with individuals from every CSUSM constituency. In attendance were students, faculty, staff, administration, and community supporters and partners. In both large and small groups, the participants discussed the six thematic domains posed by the CSU Strategic Planning Steering Committee, and trained facilitators from the staff and faculty recorded and reported on the main points of the conversation.

After the February 14 event, the reports were posted on the CSUSM website, and members of the campus community were invited to read the comments and add their own. As the domain reports indicate, the liveliest conversations focused upon our own campus's strengths and weaknesses in relation to the domains, although Domain 6 (Now and In the Future: Campus/System Identity) did elicit a number of comments about system direction and policy. We hope that our identification of some of our campus's "best practices" and campus concerns will provide those guiding the system's strategic planning effort with ideas that will inform the strategic planning effort and help the system with its essential mission of serving the citizens of California.

Furthermore, among the individuals who attended the Access to Excellence event there was great support for the practice of conducting university-wide conversations about CSUSM and the CSU. In particular, staff and students expressed their gratitude for serving as participants and facilitators. The conversations of the day revealed a deep commitment to our campus mission overall. In general, the stakeholders of CSUSM are thoughtful and passionate about their work. The attached reports reveal these dispositions. Thank you for the opportunity to help CSUSM solidify our community.

Domain Reports:

The reports provided by facilitators of each of the domain conversations may be found at the CSU San Marcos Access to Excellence website:

<http://www.csusm.edu/aa/AccessToExcellence/>