

San Diego Chicano/Latino Concilio on Higher Education  
Notes from meeting with Grossmont College Leadership, President Denise  
Whisenhunt  
February 2024

Dear Denise,

Thanks again for facilitating the meeting between your leadership team and our San Diego Concilio on February 29. I would like to submit these notes from the meeting for your review.

- Grossmont College is an HSI with a diverse student enrollment, including 39 percent Chicano/Latino. It is also the number one local transfer institution to SDSU.
- Grossmont has a President's Task Force on Anti-Racism that includes a focus on onboarding faculty and staff.
- Grossmont has a revised strategic plan to advance anti-racism and equity work, and to provide an equitable, student-centered educational experience.
- The college has started a Dreamer Resource Center (with a full-time coordinator), a Latinx Heritage Month, and ethnic graduation ceremonies.
- Its student success framework builds on Guided Pathways with goals for 2027-28.
- Grossmont's Puente Program has two cohorts with a total of seventy-four students. The program features intrusive counseling, other support services, priority registration and financial aid review. Its impact is seen in higher rates of retention and persistence for Puente students.
- The college's Title V, Via Rapido first-year experience is now fully institutionalized.
- Grossmont created "The Village" in fall 2023, which houses Puente, the Dreamer Resource Center, TRIO, and success coaches.
- The MESA program has eleven Chicano/Latino students among a cohort of thirty-six students.
- Grossmont is expanding Ethnic Studies through an ES grant from the state. It is bringing Curtis Acosta as a speaker to the Faculty Equity Institute.
- Grossmont has a faculty that is 17.2 percent Chicano/Latino.
- The college's THRIVE program provides faculty development through an onboarding process.
- There are EEO representatives on the college's hiring committees. The college is working with the scholar Frank Harris through the President's Anti-Racism Initiative, developing a plan.
- The Grossmont-Cuyamaca Board has an anti-racist committee.
- There is a SDICCCA internship program. Participation is impacted by the \$700 fee students must pay to participate.

Please let me know if I've omitted any critical points or described them inaccurately. We also appreciate the detail included in your power point that describes institutional efforts that contribute to the success of Grossmont's Chicano/Latino students.

In addition, our SD Concilio would like to engage the following points:

- Regarding your Puente Program, does the program include any support staff, programming budget, or other forms of support?
- Could you please detail any recent or ongoing strategies from your Human Resources Department's EEO program that are designed to increase institutional diversity and equity?
- We understand that Grossmont has a Faculty Equity Institute with participants from many departments; is it fully institutionalized or operating on temporary funds? Can you please share how many faculty members participate in the institution annually?
- Our previous SD Concilio meeting with the leadership of Grossmont College included a discussion of the college's law enforcement structure and policies, including the role of the San Diego Sheriff's Office. Has the sheriff's office instituted recent changes or additions to its law enforcement strategies, such as the use of surveillance cameras and/or tasers? If so, are these changes in response to evidence of rising crime rates on the campus?

We look forward to your response, and we hope to continue our conversations moving forward. Please let me know if our SD Concilio can be of assistance to you or your team.

Sinceramente,

Patrick Velasquez  
Co-Chair, SD Concilio