

Creating Tomorrow's Futures

California State University
Extended University

A New Framework for Action

February 9, 2005

Introduction

Chancellor Charles B. Reed made a presentation to the California State University Commission on the Extended University at its meeting on February 27, 2003. The Chancellor's primary message was to encourage the commission to take a critical look at its "Framework for Action" which was finalized in 1991.

The Chancellor's vision encompassed the California State University's Extended University serving a leadership role in meeting the State's economic and workforce development needs, increasing access by serving broader constituencies, developing alternative instructional delivery systems, thinking more creatively in the development of new programs, and generating new sources of revenue.

The Chancellor charged the Commission to:

- Take a more visible leadership role,
- Communicate a vision for the Extended University, and
- Lead projects and efforts that are both system-wide and intra-campus based on that vision.

Extended University deans, through the Commission on the Extended University, would like to thank the Chancellor providing the impetus for creating this revised New Framework for Action as a vision for how the Extended University will serve the State of California through the beginning of this new century.

The CSU Extended University Mission

California's economy is one of the largest in the world. A major contributor to the State's rise to economic dominance has been the California State University and its Extended University. Serving nearly 300,000 students annually and generating over \$110,400,000 in revenues, the Extended University performs a critical role in creating a workforce capable of change and transition.¹ Instructional programs of the Extended University adapt rapidly to meet the shifting educational needs of the current and future California workforce in ways not available to traditional academe. In the 21st century, perhaps more than at any previous time in history, meeting the educational needs across the life span is essential in helping individuals acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to fulfill dreams, reach potentials, and maximize contributions to the state and society.

Providing educational opportunities to meet the learning needs of local, state, regional, national, and international constituencies not served through traditional state-supported programs is an essential component of the multi-faceted California State University. Extended University functions on the University's 23 campuses offer undergraduate and graduate degrees, certificate and workforce development programs, lifelong learning opportunities, and professional education activities. These educational opportunities are usually financially self-supporting programs and serve to complement those funded by the State.

The mission of the California State University's Extended University is to:

1. meet California's economic and workforce development needs,
2. increase access to educational opportunities by serving broader constituencies,
3. develop alternative instructional delivery systems,
4. creatively develop new programs,
5. provide personal and lifelong learning opportunities, and
6. generate new revenues,
7. Supporting international educational experiences.

¹ Extended University is a system-wide term that includes extended, extension, and continuing education programs, colleges, and divisions on the University's individual campuses.

The Commission on the Extended University therefore makes the following recommendations to the California State University Board of Trustees and supports each recommendation's action items as avenues for their accomplishment.

Recommendation One

Recognize the Extended University's mission as the CSU's designated mechanism for financially self-supporting outreach and engagement by providing high quality lifelong learning programs and services and fostering the economic and workforce development of local regions, the State of California, - the nation, and beyond..

Action Items:

1. The California State University and its Board of Trustees shall formally recognize and include in appropriate reports and documents the multiple contributions the Extended University makes to: developing an effective and productive workforce; increasing access to higher education programs; improving the quality of life for the citizens of California, and improving other areas of interest to the State and the general public.
2. The California State University Commission on the Extended University will report annually to the California State University Board of Trustees on activities, programs, services and multiple contributions of the CSU's Extended University.

Recommendation Two

Recognize and endorse the Extended University's function within the California State University as: facilitating progress toward degree completion for the traditional student body; increasing access to learning opportunities for the broader community especially for traditionally underserved populations; and developing alternate instructional delivery systems.

Action Items:

1. The California State University through the Board of Trustees and the Office of the Chancellor:
 - a. Remove policies and procedures that hinder matriculated students from taking self-supported courses in order to accelerate progress toward degree.
 - b. Encourage and reward the development and funding of inter-campus undergraduate programs, graduate programs, and services.

2. The California State University, through the Board of Trustees and the Office of the Chancellor encourage the Extended University to design and implement:
 - a. Self-support programs that accelerate degree completion for students.
 - b. Policies that promote revenue generation for state-supported programs through partnerships between the Extended University and academic departments and colleges that permit cost and revenue sharing.
 - c. Programs that increase access to educational opportunities available from the California State University to traditionally underserved populations in the State.
 - d. New financially self-supporting models for offering inter-session and summer sessions that take advantage of the existing distance learning technologies.

Recommendation Three

The Extended University is encouraged to develop new programs and services for the California State University that respond and advance California's position as a demographically diverse and economically dynamic world leader.

Items for Action

1. Streamline the academic and administrative policies and procedures for development and approval of new programs to reduce the timeline from idea inception to program approval and implementation.

2. Develop financially self-supporting undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs characterized by flexibility and adaptability to learners' needs that serve local, regional, state, national, and international audiences through traditional and non-traditional delivery modalities.