

Opportunity for Student Dormitory at Glendale Community College:

Potential Outcomes for GCC International Student Program and the College

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Glendale Community College has been a leader in international education at the community college level for many years dating back to the early 1960's when an International Student Program was initiated. This program has developed, grown and faced many challenges over the years to maintain enrollments and enhance services.

In recent years, we have experienced increased global competition for students from colleges and universities in the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Other countries have upgraded their university options and educational infrastructure making their educational programs appealing to the student market. There has been a huge increase in U. S. and regional competition, as well. California and Washington state colleges have increased their marketing efforts, California Community College International programs are growing, many more community colleges offer intensive ESL programs as feeders to their degree programs and there is more reliance on marketing incentives and commissions to increase program enrollments. Additional challenges include our reliance on visa issuance for community college programs by the U.S. Department of State, changing federal regulations, world economic issues, and events such as 9/11.

GCC's international student (F-1 visa) enrollments in the last ten years have gone from a high of 567 in the Fall of 2000 (immediately before 9/11 and SEVIS implementation) to a low of 430 in the Fall of 2009. While we continue to enroll students for the Fall 2011 semester, the F-1 visa enrollment has already increased to 447. Over the years, the international student enrollment has represented around 3% of the total student population at GCC.

Revenue generated by non-resident tuition over the last ten years has ranged from \$2.2 million to \$3.2 million a year. These figures do not include the enrollment fee, other student fees, and the capital outlay fee. Unlike the

enrollment fee which goes to the state, the non-resident tuition is discretionary income for the college.

The proposed dormitory project of an on-campus building for international students, other non-resident students and local area students would potentially provide a number of benefits to the College generally and enable the college to grow and enhance the International Student Program. The following represents a brief summary of advantages an on-campus dormitory building could provide:

- The dormitory building could be a signature “**International House**” for the College and as such attract not only international students but also other students interested in a “global or international experience” during their college years at GCC. Students who want to utilize or practice their language skills, learn about other cultures, prepare for a career in international business or international relations are some examples of this. This would make GCC unique for marketing and other promotional purposes in California, the United States, and abroad.
- The project will increase the overall exposure and marketing profile of the College when compared to other Southern California Community College Districts who do not have on-campus housing. Currently, there are eleven California Community Colleges with dormitories and most are located in Northern California. Taft College, Cerro Cosa College, and West Hills College in Coalinga are the closest colleges with dormitories to Southern California colleges.
- The recruitment and outreach efforts of the International Student Program will be significantly enhanced both regionally and overseas because all of our direct Southern California competitors do not offer housing, as well as, outreach efforts to out-of-state students who are usually classified as non-residents for their first year.
- The current F-1 visa population contributes approximately \$2.7 to \$3.0 million to the District annually in non-resident tuition revenue. In recent years, this revenue stream has been stagnant due of lack of available course units and down-sizing of class capacity during both short-term sessions and the regular Fall and Spring semesters. The proposed dormitory building would enable the college to generate additional income for the college. Each international student is required to enroll in 12 or more units each semester. On an **annual** basis, each student at current tuition and fee

rates generates a minimum of \$10,890. Most students complete four semesters at GCC.

- Two years ago, GCC received certification from the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services to issue Form I-20 for English Language Training. This certification allowed the college to enroll international students for English language studies who otherwise did not qualify for regular admission into our degree program rather than refer them to other schools. The on-campus building would allow GCC to offer an **English Language Summer Program** and provide a bridge to the Fall semester degree program and thus generate additional income.
- Last March, MOU's and agreements were signed with the cities of Gimpo and Goseong in South Korea. The mayors of those cities have committed to sending students to GCC as part of their Global Education initiatives. The parents, teachers, and officials shared a concern for safe and well-located housing for their children. This project would address this concern.

Additional recommendations to accommodate anticipated needs of the students and success of the project include:

- Designing the building as apartment units to include one and two bedrooms with kitchenette facilities to enable students to prepare their own food would make the rooms ideal. Based on past trends and demographics it is estimated that one-fourth or more of the international student population would opt for this on-campus facility. A dormitory design structure without some kind of kitchen facilities may not entice this population.
- Ideally, a 250 to 275 bed maximum structure with approximately 125 units is more feasible for size, practicality and costs. Also, the parking should be underground garage-type facility with remote controlled gate for best security and monitoring purposes.
- Projections for international student participation would be 150 to 200 students and about 50 students from outside the region.
- Rents would need to be kept within reasonable rates, while still generating a profit for the investors. The current international student budget for off-campus living expenses for 10 months is estimated at \$11,000. This figure includes estimates for rent, meals, utilities, personal expenses and local transportation costs. This figure is stated on each student's U.S. immigration Form I-20.