Learning Center

Measure G Expenditures: $197,048 (Learning Center)

1. Provide a brief description of your program/service (50 words or fewer).
The Cañada College Learning Center recognizes the support needs of our diverse student population in their academic courses and programs. In coordination with faculty and staff, we support student success by encouraging a variety of learning strategies, elevating students' confidence, and empowering students to achieve their highest potential through a comprehensive tutorial program and other academic support services.

2. Is the college contractually obligated to provide your program/service?

No. The college is not under contractual obligation to offer Learning Center services.

3. Is the college obligated to provide your program/service in order to meet accreditation requirements?

Yes. Accreditation requirement #16 states:

The institution provides, through ownership or contractual agreement, specific long-term access to sufficient information and learning resources to support its mission and instructional programs in whatever format and wherever they are offered.

4. How does your program/service specifically support objectives of the Educational Master Plan or other strategic plans?

The existence of the Learning Center supports the Completion Objective 2.6 of the Educational Master Plan.

Completion Objective 2.6: Improve progress through increased intentional counseling and other services to guide students to completion of their goals.

5. How many students (headcount) per semester are served by your program/service in an academic year?
2013 Academic Year: 2,022.
Fall 2013: 940
Spring 2013: 823
Summer 2013: 259

6. Does your program/service provide for the needs of a special population of students?

No. The Learning Center is available to all Cañada students in need of tutorial and academic support assistance.

7. What is your evidence of program success?

According to data provided through the Office of Institutional Research, students that received tutorial assistance were more successful and were retained at greater rates and percentages than those that did not receive tutorial assistance. See attached.

8. What measures would be required in order to accommodate your current students if your program were to lose funding.

There is no alternative measure to make up for a lack of Learning Center services.

9. What specific measures of cost savings to your program/service can you propose? What are the consequences of implementing these measures?

The Learning Center is currently functioning with 80% of the staffing funded through Measure G. The immediate goal of the Learning Center staff is to create a more efficient model of much needed service delivery, though

sufficient staff is needed to achieve this. There are currently two vacant Learning Center positions that are funded through Fund 1 and three professional level positions funded through Measure G. Most of the tutor funding is also through Measure G. The Learning Center proposes the following as a cost saving measure:

- Fund the current level of Learning Center professional staff (allocating the funds from the two vacant positions to allow for partial compensation of 3 full-time instructional aide II positions) or
- Fill the current Tutor Coordinator/Assistant Project Director position (from Fund 1) and maintain 2 full-time instructional aide II positions.

The Learning Center is open for approximately 13 hours a day. There needs to be sufficient professional staff working from open to close with necessary student assistant and tutorial presence. One goal for Fall 2014 is to change our delivery of tutorial services to a more effective and efficient and accessible model that will save in tutor expenditures but there still needs to be sufficient tutors in varying subject areas to meet the tremendous needs of Cañada students.

10. What other possible sources of funding might be available to fund your program/service?

Learning Resources is a core service that should be available at every college. Funding for academic support services is a campus responsibility.

The California Chancellors Office recently affirmed:

"The implementation of several initiatives i.e. basic skills, student success, and online education has increased the profile and use of tutors and tutoring programs in a variety of environments."

The California Student Success Initiative:

Recommendation 2.4: Require students showing a lack of readiness to participate in support resources.