

IVC Project TALCAS – General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) Narrative

The following narrative identifies a barrier, describes how that barrier impedes student success, and describes how IVC and/or Project TALCAS will remedy that barrier.

Gender: Approximately 57% of the student population. According to a student survey of 1000 students, 30% of IVC students have between 1 and 4+ dependents, and 80% of the respondents were under 24 years of age. Further, 78% of IVC students take at least one pre-transfer level course. Project TALCAS will increase the availability to tutors, increase the accessibility to tutors, by offering online tutors, increase access by enabling instructors to create their own video lectures, accessible any place and any time, and improve institutional effectiveness for learning services.

National Origin: Imperial County is a border community with a busy port of entry for immigrants from Mexico and other countries. New immigrants have a different cultural perspective that they bring to the classroom. Project TALCAS will provide pedagogy and technology training for faculty, and pedagogical training for tutors so all instructional staff may capitalize on that perspective and improve learning.

Race/Color: IVC faculty and staff demographics do not reflect the demographics of the local population. Role models for some groups are limited. Project TALCAS will provide a safe environment for all students to learn, all faculty to collaborate, and a place for faculty and students to interact.

Disability: Students with physical or learning disabilities need special accommodations to access higher education. IVC, in collaboration with the IV Board of Education, provides extensive technological solutions and adaptations to facilitate learning and success of students with disabilities. Project TALCAS will not only focus on easy access for distance education learners, but also on improving access for all learners. Professors will be given the opportunity to create online lectures, thereby enabling students the opportunity to consistently be engaged with professors.

Age: The average age of an IVC student is 28 years old. Older learners are more likely to have work and family conflicts that interfere with school schedules and responsibilities. Project TALCAS will expand learning services allowing students a wide degree of online instructional services including improved interaction between faculty and students, improved efficiency in the learning services area by increasing the number of tutors and supplemental instruction workshops.