



CUESTA COLLEGE EDUCATIONAL MASTER PLAN PROJECT

Project Update – February 3, 2025

Cuesta College is now in the second phase of its four-phase project to develop its next long-range educational master plan (EMP), *Cuesta College Educational Master Plan 2026 – 2030*. The plan will provide a blueprint for action for the College for the next four years in serving students and communities of the San Luis Obispo County Community College District. Dr. Elizabeth Coria, Vice President of Student Success and Support Programs, serves as the Executive Liaison for the project. Megan Fay-Mitchell, administrative assistant to Dr. Coria, provides logistical support for the project. The Collaborative Brain Trust (CBT) continues to provide facilitation and technical support services for the project.

The four phases of the EMP project are:

- Phase 1: Planning Design and Approach
- Phase 2: Discovery – Data Collection, Analysis, and Synthesis
- Phase 3: Portfolio Development and Planning Assumptions
- Phase 4: Goal-Setting and Recommendations

More information on the project phases, timeline, and meetings is available on the EMP website.

Phase 1 was completed in the Fall of 2024, culminating in an all-day retreat on November 7th with approximately 40 constituency group leaders from across the College to design and plan the EMP development process. Outcomes from this session included:

- Examination of best practices in higher education strategic and educational planning
- Identifying important aspects for this EMP's development process
- Establishment of the EMP Task Force (EMPTF) (purpose, role, membership, guiding principles, communication, timeline, and meeting schedule)
- Determining the length of the plan as a four-year plan
- Confirming College listening sessions (students, trustees, internal and external stakeholders)
- Alignment of the EMP with accreditation standards and College mission, vision, and values
- Alignment and integration of existing College planning efforts with the EMP
- Discussion of the impact of higher education and societal trends, changing demographics of the region, the role of the College in the growth and vitality of the region, and "stretch strategies" for Cuesta College in this next long-range plan

The resulting EMPTF Purpose Statement that was developed can be found on the EMP website. The guiding principles, membership roster, and meeting schedule are also included.

Phase 2 began in January with the formation of the EMPTF, which held its first meeting on January 28, 2025. The EMPTF (a) reviewed the EMP project phases and timeline, (2) reviewed its role and purpose as a Task Force, (3) engaged in its listening session with the CBT Team, and (4) had its first Data Presentation. The agenda, data presentation, and other materials are available on the EMP website.

Also in January, the CBT Team provided an update to the Executive Team and held visioning/listening sessions with Trustees, the College Council, and each of the internal stakeholder constituency groups.

In February, the EMPTF will review its Purpose Statement, guiding principles, and a draft EMP Table of Contents. It will also receive and discuss the second data presentation. CBT will hold listening sessions with students and external stakeholders and conduct visioning sessions with Areas of Study Pathway groups. A list of all listening/visioning sessions is available on the EMP website, along with a project overview and all EMPTF meeting agendas, materials, and presentations.

Throughout the project, an update will be provided at the beginning of each month to summarize progress on the project and describe upcoming activities. The Draft EMP is expected to be available April 30th, following the Goal-Setting Session, but stakeholders are encouraged to review data and document sections each month as they are completed and available on the website.