



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF LEGISLATION AND CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS

Reference Grant Award Number: #P031S170016
CALIFORNIA

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT DBA CUESTA has been selected to receive funding under the DEVELOPING HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS PROGRAM (84.031S). This grant will be in the amount of \$498,445.00 for the first budget period (10/01/2017 through 09/30/2018). It is anticipated that the grant will be for a total of 5 year(s). Please see the attached abstract for a brief description of the activities that will be funded under this grant.

The contact at the SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT DBA CUESTA is:

BRET CLARK
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT DBA CUESTA
HIGHWAY 1, BUILDING 7400
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93405-8095
(805) 546-2730

Purpose of the Program DEVELOPING HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS

The Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) Program provides grants to assist HSIs to expand educational opportunities for, and improve the attainment of, Hispanic students. The HSI Program grants also enable HSIs to expand and enhance their academic offerings, program quality, and institutional stability.

Cuesta College – 2017 Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions (Title V-84.031S)

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Cuesta College, the only community college serving residents of San Luis Obispo County California, is an inclusive institution that inspires a diverse student population to achieve their educational goals. In 2015-2016, 15,575 students were served through general and career technical education courses including distance education. More than 40% of students qualified as economically disadvantaged and one in four were first generation college students. The student population is 54% White and 34% Hispanic.

As a new Hispanic-Serving Institution, Cuesta College is adjusting to a diverse student population with an institutional focus on enrollment, retention and outcomes. The San Luis Obispo County Community College District Model of Integrated Planning connects the mission to the planning process in an ongoing quality improvement cycle. The Title V grant includes two activities that address five challenges identified through the integrated planning process: 1) significant achievement gap between Hispanic students and White students, 2) declining rates of completion, 3) unequal access to online resources, 4) high cost of technology infrastructure, maintenance and upgrades, and 5) lack of a defined teaching discipline or area of study.

The Title V Project unites Academic Affairs, Student Services and Administrative Services around critical goals that can be evaluated for their cumulative effects on the institution and student success, particularly for low income and Hispanic students.

Integrating Academics, Support and Technology to Increase Student Success

Activity #1: Create an academic and support structure for students, particularly Hispanic students, who want to pursue a teaching credential. Guided pathways will include detailed program maps that align courses and learning outcomes with requirements for further education and five different K-12 teaching credentials. Students and counselors will manage comprehensive education plans through *myCuesta Pathway*, an online degree-auditing tool. As students matriculate into the teacher pathways, they will join a community of future educators (*la familia*) at Cuesta College. A bilingual/bicultural Academic Success Coach and faculty mentors will provide individual support and coordinate group activities that allow students to cultivate peer and professional relationships that foster the identity of an educator. Students will complete up to four requirements for a teaching credential prior to transfer, including supervised classroom experience. A 2+2 program or a 3-year degree program with a University Partner will facilitate the local attainment of a Bachelor's degree and teaching credentials.

Activity #2: Provide a network with Wi-Fi as the primary system for delivery. Inconsistent Wi-Fi coverage is a key issue affecting institutional management due to its impact on functionality, productivity and efficiency. Ubiquitous Wi-Fi coverage will provide equal access to online resources that improve student success (including *myCuesta Pathway*), particularly for low-income students who may have unreliable access at home. Funding to support ubiquitous Wi-Fi coverage addresses a deficit in resources to support technology infrastructure, upgrades and maintenance. The network will expand from 203 to 615 wireless access points on both the North County and San Luis Obispo Campuses.