The Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) is a national survey developed by the Community College Leadership Program at the University of Texas, Austin in partnership with the NSSE (National Survey of Student Engagement) at Indiana University Center for Postsecondary Research and Planning. CCSSE has been conducted annually since 2001 and is a well-established tool examining institutional practices and students’ experiences. As stated in the CCSSE Diablo Valley College 2016 Key Findings, this survey is designed to collect data about student’s perceptions and can be used to examine institutional practices and student behaviors that are highly correlated with student learning and retention. CCSSE has five benchmarks of effective educational practices that address key areas of student engagement, all identified in research as significant to students’ educational success. The benchmarks are: Active and Collaborative learning, Student Effort, Academic Challenge, Student-Faculty Interaction and Support for Learners. Survey results provide colleges with data to look at their institution, assess their performance and compare their performance nationally. When making comparisons to other community colleges, factors such as size, program offerings and structures should be taken into consideration. Nonetheless, these survey results provide a starting point to examine and track our performance in key areas of student engagement.

In addition to the CCSSE questions grouped within the benchmark categories, colleges using the survey were able to add custom survey questions. The DVC Research, Planning and Evaluation Committee (RPEC) was tasked to develop supplementary student engagement questions. RPEC developed 15 custom survey items that focused on student perceptions of their DVC college experience including student services and information dissemination.

The 2016 CCSSE Survey included 434,000 students in the national cohort from 700 colleges. DVC administered the CCSSE survey to 1,111 students in classes. Classes were randomly selected and faculty administered the surveys to their students in the selected classes. Within this cohort of students, the ethnicity/race distribution reflects DVC’s diverse student population with the exception of two groups. Asian/Asian American students were overrepresented by 12%, whereas, Hispanic, Latino, Spanish were underrepresented by 7%. However, the large sample size supports the conclusions drawn.

The 2016 key findings and results of the custom survey items were released to the college. RPEC was assigned to review the results and submit a report to College Council. RPEC’s report to College Council includes the Community College Survey of Student Engagement 2016 Key Findings (from CCSSE) and two documents written by RPEC. RPEC summarizes the survey findings in context of the DVC Strategic Plan along with other key documents in RPEC’s Report of CCSSE Survey DVC 2016 Results. RPEC analyzes and summarizes the results of the custom survey items in RPEC’s Report of Supplementary Questions. Recommendations for the college to consider can be found at the end of each of these RPEC documents. The supplementary questions survey data is available by going to the DVC U-Drive to the following folders: \administration\u-drive\Committees\College Governance\RPEC\CCSSE Results 2016

Questions about the CCSSE survey should be directed to Marilyn Sargent, CCCCD Director of Research Collaboration.