

Diablo Valley College Educational Strategic Plan (2026-2031)

October 2025 Update

The Diablo Valley College Educational Strategic Plan (ESP) process kicked off this month. The college has engaged the Gensler Consulting team—Dr. Lori Bennett, Erin Cubbison, and Deborah Shepley—to facilitate the development of the new five-year plan and prepare a final draft for collegewide review. The planning process will include a review of DVC's vision, mission, and values and will be grounded in data-driven analysis to ensure thoughtful, informed decision-making. The completed plan will outline a set of strategic goals, objectives, and action steps that together will serve as a roadmap to guide the college's growth and priorities over the next several years. These efforts align with Diablo Valley College's integrated planning framework.

To support this work, DVC has established an ESP Taskforce comprised of classified professionals, faculty, and administrators. Serving as a collaborative working group, the Taskforce will help shape the development of the plan, ensuring it reflects the collective insight and shared values of the DVC community.

Lindsay Kong, Dean, Institutional Effectiveness and Accreditation, is facilitating the project, overseeing the coordination between the college and the Gensler consulting team.

The planning project is organized into five distinct steps, with their respective timelines detailed below.

Project Steps and Timeline

- Step 1 – **Prepare** (Oct 2025)
- Step 2 – **Engage & Analyze** (Oct – Dec 2025)
- Step 3 – **Frame** (Nov 2025 – Feb 2026)
- Step 4 – **Develop** (Jan – Mar 2026)
- Step 5 – **Share & Approve** (Mar – June 2026)

During October, the college focused on Step 1 – Prepare then transitioned to Step 2 – Engage & Analyze. Steps 2 through 4 will continue over the coming months, leading to a draft of the Diablo Valley College Educational Strategic Plan in April 2026. Step 5 – Share & Approve, which includes College review followed by Board of Trustees review and approval, will take place between April and June 2026. Once approved, the new plan will be ready for collegewide implementation in August 2026.

October Project Activities

- The consulting team held introductory meetings with Dr. Chahal and Lindsay Kong to confirm the various college event dates and begin planning the upcoming college engagement sessions.
- During a visit to DVC Pleasant Hill, the Gensler team presented an overview of the ESP project to President's Cabinet and College Council.
- The Marketing and Communications and Institutional Effectiveness Offices worked collaboratively to develop a new DVC Educational Strategic Plan webpage.
- Dean Kong worked with the District Research and Planning Department to provide a variety of internal and external data reports that will be reviewed by the Taskforce during Step 2 of the planning process.

- The leadership team began organizing the All-College Workshop, College Focus Group sessions, and Community Forums.

During November and December, the college will host a series of engagement events designed to gather meaningful input and participation from students, employees, and community members:

- Nov 5: All-College Workshop
- Nov 19, 20 and Dec 2: College Focus Groups and Drop-by Sessions at PHC and SRC for students and employees
- Nov 20 (San Ramon) and Dec 2 (Pleasant Hill): Community Forums (community members)
- Nov 14 and Dec 5: Taskforce Workshops

A draft of the DVC Educational Strategic Plan is targeted for early April 2026. College review and Board of Trustees review and approval will be conducted between April and July 2026. The new plan will be ready for collegewide implementation in Fall 2026.

Note: *Each month, the college will post a brief update on the DVC Educational Strategic Plan webpage to keep the campus and community informed about project activities and progress. The site will also include the project overview, data presentations, and other key documents. The November/December update will be available in early December.*