



Job Description

JOB TITLE: EXECUTIVE DEAN, STUDENT EQUITY AND COMPLETION

LAST REVISED: October, 2020

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Sierra College is committed to increasing student achievement, shortening time-to-goal completion, and closing equity gaps through the implementation of Guided Pathways. In that spirit, the Executive Dean, Student Equity and Completion, is responsible for ensuring that areas of oversight afford an inclusive educational environment, focused on equitable outcomes for all. This position will serve as the dynamic and innovative leader for the college's equity and completion efforts; establish a shared vision for providing systemic access, support, and opportunities to underrepresented and underserved student populations; and promote a culture of inclusion and belonging. To ensure that equity and student completion is fully integrated in the college's transformational redesign efforts under the Guided Pathways framework, this position works in partnership with the Executive Dean of Student Success. The position will also work in close collaboration with other campus and community stakeholders and committees to determine and apply measures of success by which to close, and ultimately eliminate, the college's equity gaps. The position reports to the Vice President of Instruction and the Vice President of Student Services.

Sierra College has a strong commitment to the achievement of equity and inclusion among its faculty, staff and students and values the rich diverse backgrounds that make up the campus community. The Executive Dean must demonstrate a profound understanding of and experience with successfully supporting individuals with varying backgrounds. This includes former foster youth, first-generation students, persons with disabilities, undocumented scholars, individuals from historically underrepresented communities, various gender identities, sexual orientation, and other groups to ensure the District provides strategies for success and pro-active, student-centered practices and policies committed to eliminating equity gaps.

ESSENTIAL *The following duties are typical for this job classification. Incumbents may not perform all of the listed duties and/or may be required to perform additional or different duties from those set forth below to address business needs and changing business practices.*

RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Provide executive leadership in the implementation of the college's *Equity and Student Completion Guided Pathways Strategic Plan*, ensuring an equity-mindset is applied throughout design, implementation, evaluation and assessment processes;
2. In support of District wide goals, make recommendations to the college planning process to address equity gaps through the employment of initiatives such as campus climate engagement, culturally responsive teaching and programming, historical trauma and cultural healing work, and the promotion of a campus culture of well-being, belonging, and respect.
3. Work collaboratively with Executive Dean of Student Success and the college community, including Institutional Research and Planning, to facilitate assessment, planning, and evaluation efforts to mitigate identified disparities. Understand current research and apply data to address barriers, including both qualitative and quantitative data, to support systemic initiatives that improve student experiences, access to resources, and goal completion.
4. Support the campus community, including college leadership, in developing an understanding of equity and student success goals and initiatives; build support for district-wide efforts to close equity gaps, increase student success, and identify and mitigate organizational biases.
5. Supervise assigned Instructional or Student Services departments or programs.
6. Identify and create opportunities to capture student voices in planning processes for Guided Pathways and Equity initiatives and implementation.
7. Provide leadership to ensure the college provides culturally responsive programming to meet the needs of students.

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8. Coordinate with Professional and Organizational Development to develop and provide equity and inclusion training for faculty, staff and students, with a goal of institutional skills development to successfully support our diverse student populations.
9. Formulate and make recommendations to the college's executive team regarding improvements to college policies, processes, procedures, and practices pertaining to the college's goals of student completion and elimination of equity gaps.
10. Work with Executive Dean of Student Success to coordinate and complete various collegiate plans and Chancellor's Office reports.
11. Coordinate with Executive Dean of Student Success and the Research and Planning Office to track and monitor disaggregated cohorts of entering students to identify loss and momentum points along students' paths through college; highlight variations by course and/or program and facilitate appropriate review and response.
12. Devise and monitor systems of evaluation that measure equity and success, report evaluative results regularly to the college community, and employ strategies for continuous improvement.
13. In partnership with the Executive Dean of Student Success, work with members of the college community to promote grant-writing, development and fundraising activities specifically to enhance efforts in equity, student success, and completion.
14. Serve as liaison to develop and maintain effective relationships with key internal and external community stakeholders around issues of equity and inclusion and student completion.
15. Engage faculty and staff in collaborative processes to achieve goals related to creating a culture of assessment including inquiry, reflection, and ongoing improvement.
16. Serve on workgroups and project teams as either a facilitator, sponsor, or participant to help guide and implement equity and student completion-related initiatives.
17. Work with Professional Development and other campus entities to provide high profile campus events that promote equity and inclusion, provide institutionalized trainings for faculty and staff to become champions for the work of student equity and completion, and enhance a diverse and inclusive campus environment.
18. Serve as needed as a member of the District negotiations team(s).
19. Maintain active membership in relevant professional associates and attend relevant conferences, trainings and institutes to remain current in emerging trends.
20. Perform related duties as required.

QUALIFICATIONS - *The following generally describes the knowledge and ability required to enter the job and/or be learned within a short period in order to successfully perform the assigned duties.*

Knowledge of:

- Contemporary diversity, equity, inclusion and multiculturalism concepts and issues;
- Equity data, metrics, and effective use of analytics;
- Guided Pathways principles, practices, challenges, and opportunities;
- Effective equity, inclusion, and student success practices in an educational setting;
- Federal and state regulations pertaining to student equity;
- Effective research methodologies, including needs assessments and methods for determining disproportionate impact;
- Project management techniques and design-thinking frameworks;
- Participatory governance, collaborative decision-making processes, and team management techniques;
- Leadership and management techniques including planning, organizing, assigning, and reviewing work; faculty and staff performance evaluation, recruitment and selection;
- Methods to successfully support individuals with varying backgrounds, which includes persons with disabilities, various gender identities, sexual orientation, individuals from historically underrepresented communities and other groups;
- Historical and systemic inequities and the effects and trauma on underrepresented and underserved populations;
- Basic computer software use (e.g.: Microsoft Outlook, Excel, Word, PowerPoint).

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Ability to:

- Research best practices and lead equity and student completion initiatives and programs;
- Navigate complex and emotionally charged issues with divergent perspectives to result in successful resolution and action;
- Work collaboratively and build strong relationships with faculty, students, staff, governance entities, and colleagues to ensure broad stakeholder input, engagement and support;
- Work effectively and collaboratively across a complex organization to identify and mitigate organizational biases;
- Multi-task in a fast-paced environment;
- Read, interpret and apply relevant and related laws, regulations, and policies;
- Exercise initiative and creativity to meet a broad diversity of perspectives and needs;
- Maintain accurate and adequate records to meet internal/external analysis, audits, planning, and reporting requirements;
- Prepare oral and written reports and presentations;
- As appropriate, administer the District's collective bargaining agreements.
- Apply an equity-minded framework and ensure programs, services and processes are designed and delivered to meet the varying needs of all students.
- Approach all duties of the position with an equity-minded perspective that supports and promotes inclusion and diversity while supporting effective calling in practices;

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

The following describes the education, experience, knowledge, skills, and abilities required to enter the job and successfully perform the assigned duties.

Education and Experience - Any combination of education and experience that would likely provide the required knowledge and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the knowledge and abilities would be:

Minimum: A Master's degree from an accredited college or university with major coursework in any related field and (1) year of experience related to the duties of the position.

Preferred: Any additional combination of three or more years of experience in student equity, instruction, and/or student services program administration or coordination; documentable evidence of negotiation skills and ability to work with a wide range of constituencies.

License or Certificate:

Possession of, or ability to obtain, an appropriate, valid driver's license.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS AND WORKING ENVIRONMENT - The conditions herein are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential job functions.

Environment: Work is performed primarily in a standard office setting

Physical: Primary functions require sufficient physical ability and mobility to work in an office setting; to stand or sit for prolonged periods of time; to occasionally walk, stoop, bend, kneel, crouch, reach, and twist; to lift, carry, push, and/or pull light to moderate amounts of weight; to operate office equipment requiring repetitive hand movement and fine coordination including use of a computer keyboard; and to verbally communicate to exchange information.

Vision: See in the normal visual range with or without correction; vision sufficient to read computer screens and printed documents; and to operate assigned equipment.

Hearing: Hear in the normal audio range with or without correction.