For the first time in California Community Colleges history, faculty, staff and administrators have access to an online professional development resource created just for them. The Professional Learning Network (PLN) grew out of IEPI’s focus on providing professional development resources to foster innovation, enhance institutional operations and improve student success.

The result is a powerful new website that acts as a repository of effective practices on everything from the classroom to the boardroom. The site includes a system-wide events calendar, a library of self-paced and video-based trainings, and a “speakers’ bureau” of experts.

Recently joining this effort is Lynda.com, one of the best-known and most respected online professional training websites. California Community Colleges professionals will be able to access online training programs of Lynda.com at no cost through the PLN website, adding an extensive technical training component to the PLN offerings.

► The PLN is live at: http://prolearningnetwork.cccco.edu

IEPI Ambassadors of the Month

“They’ve [IEPI] done a really good job of selecting topics that are relevant; these workshops are hot topics, and really well attended.”

According to Hill, who has attended multiple IEPI workshops and served on Partnership Resource Team (PRT) visits to Lassen College, it’s this meticulous planning and focus that sets IEPI apart from other statewide student success projects. “You’re with so many peers focusing on the same issue, it allows us to delve deeper.”

“I have learned at least as much, if not more, than the colleagues to whom I was supposed to provide assistance.”

Maureen served on both a PRT and attended an IEPI-sponsored professional development workshop. On her PRT visit, she was a resource to the college, offering both her knowledge and a new set of eyes on the issues for the college. This experience is part of the colleagues-helping-colleagues approach inherent in the PRTs.

Vice Chancellor’s Notes

When California released its 2015-16 state budget, the California Community Colleges system was pleased that $60 million was allotted to support basic skills and student success in the form of college grants. While the addition of funds definitely helps, colleges awarded these grants are also looking for support and direction. To this end, the Academic Affairs Division and IEPI, in partnership with the Statewide Academic Senate and 3CSN, sponsored a two-day Basic Skills and Student Outcomes Transformation Program Kick-Off Summit to connect colleges with groups that specialize in the interventions that support the development of robust basic skills programs.

The interest from the field was amazing! More than 300 faculty, staff and administrators spent two days of their summer vacation working alongside their colleagues to explore evidence-based practices that will improve student success at their college and across the system. The goal of this Summit was to help local college teams develop strategic game plans so they can hit the ground running in the fall.

– Theresa Tena, Vice Chancellor of Institutional Effectiveness

► Participate: Visit the IEPI website to see how you might become part of the Partnership Resource Team pool of experts!
Workgroup News

Framework of Indicators

Data your college can use to set the bar, measure progress, and demonstrate change is often difficult to come by. The IEPI Advisory Committee’s Indicators Workgroup has recently developed indicators on median time-to-completion of degree, and percentage of students who complete transfer-level English or math within one or two years. Regional workshops will be offered in late fall/early spring to introduce the new indicators and help colleges integrate them into their planning processes.

Technical Assistance

As an important component of IEPI, Partnership Resource Teams (PRTs) provide technical assistance to colleges, districts and centers that express interest in receiving support on self-identified issues. For the 2016-2017 academic year, there is a lot on the docket for PRTs:

- Eleven institutions are scheduled for first visits during Fall 2016, and another nine already have visits set for Spring 2017.
- This fall, more than 55 new PRT members will receive training and be added to the number of professionals available to participate in college visits.
- The first issue of the Spotlights, newsletter, featuring Barstow College’s experience with a PRT, was recently published.

To see how your institution might receive a PRT, please visit the IEPI Website.

Professional Development

The IEPI team is committed to providing valuable professional development resources for the California Community Colleges system. Workshops on inmate education, the integration of Lynda.com into the PLN, and the Basic Skills Summit have all proven to be a great start for summer. Stay tuned for upcoming workshop topics, including pathways, financial aid institutional eligibility, dual enrollment, Title IX, emergency preparedness and more.

Leadership Development Grants

IEPI will be offering Leadership Development training grants directly to colleges and districts to help strengthen the relationships between local academic, classified and administrative leaders, and to provide them with the skills necessary to address new challenges, implement initiatives and effectively lead change. In addition, grants will be made available to certain California Community Colleges professional associations/organizations and California-based centers/institutes that offer leadership development training. More details to come later this month.

Professional Learning Network (PLN)

If you have not yet visited the PLN website, now is the time to set up an account and get started. The PLN is your go-to resource for online professional development and will only grow stronger as you and your colleagues submit your own effective practices.

For more information, go to: http://prolearningnetwork.cccco.edu