Assessment: Assessment Unit Planning

Program Review 2014-15

YC - MESA Program Review

Year Under Review : 2014-15
Type of Review:
Program Description : The Math, Engineering, and Science Achievement (MESA) Program is nationally recognized for its innovative and effective academic development program. MESA engages thousands of educationally disadvantaged students so they excel in math and science and graduate with STEM-based degrees. Most MESA students are the first in their families to attend college. Most are low-income and attend (or have attended) low-performing school with few resources. Through a close partnership with industry and the state's education systems, MESA

> Challenges students with rigorous academics.
> Actively involves industry in its activities and strategic planning.
> Ensures that college prerequisites, transfer requirements and graduation requirements are successfully fulfilled.
> Builds supportive communities to encourage academic success.
> Teaches collaborative learning techniques that help reinforce key concepts.
> Provides professional development for math and science teachers.

The Yuba College MESA Program currently serves 90 students from diverse backgrounds. Over the ten years the program has operated on campus, 84% of YC MESA students went on to a 4-year university. The program works to create a community of learning for the students. They are provided a space to interact with students, tutors, and professors. Students are taught and encouraged to use the resources that are available to them, as well as seek out any additional support they need. The MESA program has provided field trips, guest speakers, industry tours, and campus tours to the students.
The MESA Program is supported by the Faculty Advisor, Dr. Roger Davidson, and the MESA Council. The Council is scheduled to meet monthly to discuss the activities that are taking place in MESA and what the program can do to support each discipline area. With suggestions from the Faculty Advisor and the council, MESA has purchased software, MATLAB, for program and student use.
For the fall of 2012, MESA's program budget came from carryover from the previous grant. This money was used for travel, tutors, printing, and graduation expenses.
The MESA program is actively seeking and writing grants to help with funding of the program and student support.

Students in the MESA program have access to computers and software that is specific to their particular programs of study. They also have access to textbooks for their courses that they can use while in the MESA center. These books are not to be removed from the center. They also have access to the MESA director. Currently the director is part time, working 3 days/2 days every 2 weeks. The director’s schedule is posted for students. The director works with students to establish study groups, tutoring sessions, tutors for the center, edits personal statements for college applications and scholarships, resume support, double check educational plans. The limited time the director is on campus is a problem, limiting student access to support. Not being on campus full time has increase the turn around time for editing of personal statements and resumes.

The lack of a MESA counselor is also difficult. Students are often in need of ed plans or changes to their existing one based on where they are looking to transfer to. MESA requires that ed plans be up to date. Students must often wait weeks to see a counselor. There is also the problem of seeing an adjunct counselor and then having errors made because not every math and science course is offered every semester. This can add 1-2 years depending on which classes or how many classes the errors were made on.

During the 2012-2013 school year, it is known that 25 of the 90 MESA students transferred on to a 4-year university. One student was accepted to summer intern programs at UC Santa Barbra and UC Berkley, ultimately selecting Berkley. Five students received scholarships from PG&E ranging from $1000-$5000 each. At the end of the 2012-2013 school year a transfer banquet was held to celebrate student achievement. Awards were given based on GPA, a total of 49 certificates were given for students

with a GPA of 3.33 or better.

Executive Summary (Include a list of team members): The Math, Engineering, and Science Achievement (MESA) Program is designed to support underrepresented student populations as they work towards a degree in a field of science, technology, engineering and/or mathematics (STEM). The program provides tutoring, mentoring, study groups, counseling, university and career exploration, study space, and leadership development to students.
The MESA Program at Yuba College has faced large budget cuts in the past 3 years. In spite of the adversity the program has survived and continues to be successful. For the 12-13 school year the program is serving 90 students from underrepresented populations in the STEM fields. MESA continues to be the only student program at Yuba College focused on STEM students, and in particular providing educational opportunities to increase diversity in the STEM fields.
01SP. Department Goals (Click '?' for Prompt): The MESA program is aligned with the following:
5) Design our programs in such a way as to allow students to complete their educational goals in a timely manner.

The MESA program requires that all students have an up to date educational plan. This helps students examine what their career goals are, where they would like to transfer to, and how long they would like to stay at the community college. The ed plan also allows the program director to check to see that they students are on track for transfer/graduation and to encourage them as they work through their courses. The director is also there for students to talk with prior to dropping classes to make sure that they understand the consequences. An example of this would be a student that decided to drop their Trig class over the summer. Doing this means that they do not have Calc 1A complete. Calc 1A is a pre-req for Physics 4A, which is only offered spring semester. It is important that the student understand that dropping Trig would add a year to their classes.

7) Improve the quality of the student experience at all our campuses and centers.
While not officially connected with the Woodland MESA program, YC MESA has worked with them over the last year to develop some of their practices. YC MESA has shared how we conduct progress reports, what information we keep in file for each student, and how we handle tutors in our center. Yuba College MESA has accepted numerous students that have transferred to our campus to finish out their transfer credits.

8) Develop partnerships to enhance educational resources and student opportunities.

Even though they Yuba College MESA program in not currently funded by the state, the director works to maintain partnerships with both UCOP and CCCCO. UCOP sponsors two leadership conferences every year, 1 fall and 1 spring. By maintain the partnership Yuba College MESA have been invited to both conferences. UCOP also is the main clearing house for scholarship and internship opportunities, both of which our students have been able to take advantage of through our continued partnership.

9) Exemplify educational excellence, fiscal responsibility, cultural awareness, and civic engagement for our communities and region.

02SP. Facilitate Learning & Collaboration (Click '?' for Prompt): The MESA program is designed to increase the number of minority students earning degrees in the STEM fields. This is a goal that is set by State MESA not the campus. Our program supports students from lower socio-economic backgrounds with all of our active MESA members receiving financial aid. Students cohorts are very heterogeneous allowing for students to interact with other cultures. The diversity of the YC campus can be seen with in the MESA program.
03SP. Student Contacts (Click '?' for Prompt): For the 2014-2015 the MESA program served 83 students. Based on the information from Tutor Track, we served 421 students in the spring semester. We do not have accurate data for the fall semester. The computer that is used to track students was switched out in the summer and the new one has monitor issues which took most of the semester to have resolved.

Students were also assisted through email. Twenty-eight students sought help with their resume or personal statement. The number of electronic contents was not collected, only the number of resumes or personal statements for the year.

04SP. Input to Improve (Click '?' for Prompt): MESA works to monitor student progress in class and provide support for students as needed. Traditionally this has been done through the use of progress reports. This past year, the college has adopted and early alert program. Through this program faculty can express their concerns about students. Staff in MESA and other student service representative are then able to reach out to students to address their needs. One of the ways that these needs are being met is with the availability of drop in tutoring. Throughout the day there are tutors available in the MESA center for drop in

support of MESA and any STEM student in need.
05SP. Course Outlines (Click '?' for Prompt): MESA does not currently offer courses. We do however work with faculty to offer Academic Excellence Workshops to increase a studnets understanding of the material and to provide students with experience applying the concepts
06SP. Collaboration (Click '?' for Prompt): The MESA director participated in the Student Services Managers meeting that are held twice a month. This allows managers to share activities and participants across programs.
07SP. Catalog Currency (Click '?' for Prompt): In the 2015-2016 Catalog, MESA has been removed. Up to this point MESA had always been included in Program and Services. While a small program, MESA serves between 75 and 90 students. For an unfunded program, this is a manageable size.
08SP. Student Progress (Click '?' for Prompt): Traditionally, students in the MESA program are recruited through the STEM classes. This is still the case, but there has been more difficulty in recent years as traditional supported of the MESA program have retired. Direct faculty involvement is crucial to this and it needs to be cultivated. Student progress was monitored through paper progress reports. As the college has moved away from this with the use of Early Alert, the paper progress reports are not returned as regularly as in the past. Communication with Early Alert is still a work in progress. MESA communicated directly with students at the end of each semester to learn of students academic intentions. It also works with AR throughout the summer to determine if the students no longer enrolled at the college have indeed transferred.
09SP. DE Students (Click '?' for Prompt): This is not something that is currently done in MESA

This is not something currently done. The vast majority of the STEM classes are on campus. Some do have an online component, but that is not something MESA currently works with.
10SP.Disproportionate Impact(Click '?' for Prompt): MESA is designed to work with underrepresented students in STEM fields. This is different for each major, but generally means African American, Native American, Hispanic, and women. In our community we also serve students that fall in the the category of socio-economically disadvantaged, and those that are veterans or active military.
11SP. Mapping (Click '?' for Prompt): Yes
12SP. Core Competencies (Click '?' for Prompt): MESA works to provide academic advising to students. The program provides students a place to come and discuss their successes and failures in class. It provides encouragement and suggestions for improving academic success. The program also recognized when students need more assistance and directs them to official counseling services. MESA works with faculty to follow students progress though classes with the use of progress reports (this is being replaced with the Early Alert System) and then discusses with struggling students options that are available to them.

MESA is a place where students know they can go to for assistance. Students have access to drop-in tutoring, computers, study space. It also provides them access to their peers, one of the greater assets in the program. MESA encourages students to work together, discuss issues and topics related to their courses.

The design of MESA was originally to server Hispanic and African American students as well as women. This focus has changed to be first generation college students from an economically disadvantaged background. This generally encompassed the before mentioned groups.
13SP. Professional Development (Click '?' for Prompt): The MESA director participated in two (2) statewide trainings in Sacramento. In addition to that, the current director attended the California Legislative day for MESA. This is a 2 day event in which Directors and staff talk with congressional leaders about their program and the impact it has on students and communities.

The Director also attended both of the statewide student leadership conferences with students. These are networking events for students and directors.
14SP. Reflection (Click '?' for Prompt): While I feel in some respects a lot has been done with the program over the last year, it is apparent that the amount of time devoted to MESA has decreased. Work needs to be done to increase student numbers and participation. The monthly meetings need to return and be consistent.
Are you ready to submit your final program review?:

Program Recommendation: Director Staffing

MESA Director Position Funded at 100% for a minimum of 10 months.

Recommendation Priority: 3. High Priority
Year(s) Requested: 2012-2013, 2014-2015, 2015-2016

YC - MESA Program Review

Request Date: 10/31/2013
Supporting Evidence : This is a requirement for MESA funding
Evaluation Plan: The lack of a full time staff member is difficult. By not having a full time director, enrollment is down because paper work cannot be processed as quickly and not all recruitment events can be attended. Also the lack of technical staff means that the student files are not created in a timely manner, progress reports take longer to create, and contact with students is not as frequent as it should be.

Plan of Action

Staffing - Technical/Clerical - The lack of a full time staff member is difficult. By not having a full time director, enrollment is down because paper work cannot be processed as quickly and not all recruitment events can be attended. Also the lack of technical staff means that the student files are not created in a timely manner, progress reports take longer to create, at contact with students is not as frequent as it should be.

The goal is to secure a full time director in the next 12 months. (Active)

Budgetary Impact: It would add another 34,000 to the YC budget

Status

Reporting Year: 2014-2015 11/16/2015
Recommendation Progress: Recommendation Needs Improvement/Attention
The director position is still at 40%. It has been combined with another 60% position.

Staffing - Technical/Clerical - The creation of a full time MESA director would allow full attention to be given to the program and the students. This is needed to provide advising, tutoring, mentoring, field trip planning, meetings and gatherings.

The other option that would greatly assist the program would be a clerical assistant. The additional staff would increase the outreach and support to Sutter. (Active)

Budgetary Impact: The current director is split 60/40 between 2 positions. The cost would be 60% of the current salary or that of a clerical position.

YC - Location: Marysville Campus, Sutter County Campus

Status

Reporting Year: 2014-2015 11/16/2015
Recommendation Progress: Recommendation Needs Improvement/Attention
This has not been addressed. It would be beneficial especially since the director position is not full time.

Program Recommendation: Tutoring

Secure funding for tutors through the MESA program

Recommendation Priority: 3. High Priority
Year(s) Requested: 2012-2013

Plan of Action

Equipment - Work with IT and the college success center to develop student tracking system
With CSC work to receive apportionment for student hours
Work with IT to successfully track students in datatel (Active)

Budgetary Impact: ~$8,000 for the year

YC - Location: Marysville Campus

Staffing - Technical/Clerical - In the spring of 15, tutors in the MESA center had 403 student contacts for drop in tutoring. (Active)

Budgetary Impact: Roughly 10,000 a year for tutors. This amount can be offset through the use of workstudy.

YC - MESA Program Review

YC - Location: Marysville Campus

Status

Reporting Year: 2014-2015 11/16/2015
Recommendation Progress: Recommendation Needs Improvement/Attention
MESA is making progress. The program is working with workstudy and Equity to fund tutors

Program Recommendation: Staffing

The rehire of a MESA Specialist

Recommendation Priority: 2. Medium Priority
Year(s) Requested: 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015
Supporting Evidence : This is a position that was eliminated 2 years ago due to the budget. The return of this position will allow students progress and activities to be monitored more closely.

Plan of Action

Staffing - Technical/Clerical - Work with Acting Dean to locate funding source.
Work of rewriting the RFA to secure the MESA Grant when it becomes competitive
Work with the VA to determine possible funding (Active)
Budgetary Impact: ~$20,000

Status

Reporting Year: 2014-2015 11/16/2015
Recommendation Progress: Recommendation Needs Improvement/Attention
No progress has been made towards this

Program Recommendation: Professional Development

Secure funding for continued professional development and networking

Recommendation Priority: 2. Medium Priority
Year(s) Requested: 2013-2014, 2014-2015
Request Date: 10/31/2013
Supporting Evidence : This is required in the MESA agreement with CCCCO and UCOP
Evaluation Plan: Last year the MESA Director attended the MESA Student Leadership conference sponsored by PG&E, the spring leadership retreat in Santa Cruz, the fall and spring MESA director training hosted in Sacramento, and the CCAMD meeting in the winter and summer.

At each meeting directors have the opportunity to share current best practices allowing directors to modify their current practice. The most significant was to share how each of us handled personal statements and tutoring hours in the center. I was encouraged to keep digital copies of students' personal statement. This was useful last spring. I was on vacation and had a student that needed a letter of recommendation. Because there was a digital copy I was able to create a letter and submit it in time for the scholarship deadline.

Plan of Action

Professional Development/Training - Attandance of the regular conference calls to stay current on issues related to MESA
Register for MESA meetings held each semester in Sacramento (Active)
Budgetary Impact: cost of milage, less than $50 each semester
Timeline/Responsible Party: Fall and Spring
YC - Location: Marysville Campus

Status

YC - MESA Program Review

Reporting Year: 2014-2015 11/16/2015
Recommendation Progress: Recommendation Addressed/Satisfactory Progress
This was accomplished last year. It is an ongoing component of MESA

Professional Development/Training - Provide students with the opportunity to participate in Student Leadership Conferences.
Allocations are provided to colleges by MESA statewide and must be requested each semester
(Active)
Budgetary Impact: The estimated cost is $150 a student. The actual cost will be determined by the number of students participating through out the state and the number of allocations the college is provided with.
Timeline/Responsible Party: Fall and Spring semester.
YC - Location: Marysville Campus

Status

Reporting Year: 2014-2015 11/16/2015
Recommendation Progress: Recommendation Addressed/Satisfactory Progress
This was accomplished last year. It is an ongoing component of MESA

Program Recommendation: Technology

MESA Center Printer

Recommendation Priority: 2. Medium Priority
Year(s) Requested: 2013-2014
Request Date: 10/31/2013
Inactive Date: 03/02/2015
Supporting Evidence : Working equipment is a requirement for a MESA program
Evaluation Plan: Currently, the MESA program is doing well. We have 5 new computers that were purchased last year. IT was able to add all of the needed software on to them for our students. We are able to use to scanner located in the MESH Division office. This has been useful for ed plans and internships. The student printer in the MESA center is the only major problem. It is currently 10 years old and is showing its age. Parts are broken and it doesn't always pull paper from the main tray, requiring it to be hand fed.

Plan of Action

Equipment - Increase the wireless capabilities of MESA (701) and the HMC (702). As more students rely on technology, along them to have access in all places through out campus is importatnt to meeting their educational goals. (Active)
Budgetary Impact: Unknown, it would be the cost of a wireless router or other divice to increase signal strength
Timeline/Responsible Party: IT
MESA Director
YC - Location: Marysville Campus

Status

Reporting Year: 2014-2015 11/16/2015
Recommendation Progress: Recommendation Needs Improvement/Attention
This had been discussed with IT prior to the new director.

Program Recommendation: Travel

A travel budget so that students could attend university field days, industry tours, and conferences.

Recommendation Priority: 2. Medium Priority
Year(s) Requested: 2012-2013
Supporting Evidence : Field trips
(a) College visits
Many colleges have a transfer day or a MESA-transfer day. Yuba college MESA students typically visit four to six colleges in the Fall

semester and two colleges in the Spring semester. In the past, these visits have placed a crucial role in the transfer choices students make. They also serve to keep the student motivated as they imagine themselves at the next level in their educational endeavors.
(b) Leadership conferences
Each semester a small group of MESA students is selected to attend a leadership conference. The conferences are three-day conferences, Friday through Sunday. Accommodations are provided by either PG&E (the fall conference) or statewide MESA (the spring conference.) The MESA director accompanies the students to these conferences. The conferences not only provide leadership skills but also allow the students to network with MESA students from throughout the state and with industrial leaders. In the past, attendance at these conferences have also led to summer internship opportunities for some MESA students.
(c) Industry
The MESA director works to develop industry contacts and provide field trips that allow students to interact with professionals in their area of interest. The three field trips taken last in 2011-2012 exposed students to the California Department of Water Resources and two Cal Trans projects operating on I-5. Planning is underway for similar field trips for 2012-2013. Work is underway to increase the number of industrial contacts which may include field trips to Genentech and Monsanto Seed company, providing exposure to other STEM fields.

Plan of Action

Work with the Acting Dean and the Vice President to have the amount allocated (Active)
Budgetary Impact: $1500

Status

Reporting Year: 2013-2014 11/16/2015
Recommendation Progress: Recommendation Needs Improvement/Attention
MESA is working with Equity for a travel budget