EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The College of the Sequoias has adopted an Equal Employment Opportunity Plan (EEO Plan). This document can be found on the COS Human Resources website.

A. District Equal Employment Opportunity Plan:
   The COS EEO Plan is a district-wide, written document that implements the District’s EEO program, including the definitions contained in Title 5 Section 53001 which addresses the following:

   1. Submission of the EEO Plan and subsequent revisions to the state Chancellor’s Office for review and approval as required.
   2. The designation of the District employee (Dean, Human Resources) and employees (Faculty and Staff Diversity Committee) who have been delegated responsibility and authority for implementing the EEO Plan and assuring compliance with the requirements of this Procedure;
   3. The procedure for filing complaints and the person (Dean, Human Resources) with whom such complaints are to be filed;
   4. A process for notifying all District employees of the provisions of the EEO Plan and the policy statement required;
   5. A process for ensuring that District employees who are to participate on screening or selection committees shall receive appropriate training on the requirements of the applicable Title 5 regulations and of state and federal nondiscrimination laws;
   6. A process for providing annual written notice to appropriate community-based and professional organizations concerning the District’s EEO Plan and the need for assistance from such organizations in identifying qualified applicants for openings within the District;
   7. An analysis of the number of persons from “monitored groups”, as defined by Title 5 Section 53001(i), who are employed in the District's work force and those who have applied for employment in each of the job categories listed below.
   8. An analysis of the degree to which monitored groups are underrepresented in comparison to the numbers of persons from such groups whom the state Chancellor’s Office determines to be available and qualified to perform the work required for each such job category and whether or not the underrepresentation is significant;
   9. The steps the District will take to promote diversity in its work force;
   10. Methods for addressing any discrimination that is detected in the District’s hiring practices, and;
   11. Additional steps to address any significant underrepresentation of monitored groups identified in the EEO Plan.

The COS EEO Plan is a public record.
The District shall make a continuous good faith effort to comply with the requirements of its EEO Plan, including the following Plan components:

B. Annual Evaluation:
   1. An annual survey of its employees and applicants for employment in order to evaluate progress in implementing the EEO Plan and to provide data needed for required analyses.
   2. An annual report to the Chancellor’s Office of the California Community Colleges on the results of its annual survey of employees. The report shall identify each employee as belonging to one of the following seven job categories:
      a. Executive/administrative/managerial
      b. Faculty and other instructional staff
      c. Professional non-faculty
      d. Secretarial/clerical
      e. Technical and paraprofessional
      f. Skilled crafts
      g. Service and maintenance
   3. The opportunity for each employee to identify his or her gender, ethnicity and, if applicable, disability. This opportunity must allow for a person to designate multiple ethnic groups with which he or she identifies. However, the person may only be counted in one group for reporting purposes.

C. EEO Advisory Committee:
   The District has established an EEO Advisory Committee (also known as the Faculty and Staff Diversity Committee). This committee shall include a diverse membership whenever possible.

   The responsibilities of the Committee shall include but not be limited to the following:
   1. Review and advise on recruitment efforts; job announcements, interview protocols, retention efforts and other aspects of the hiring, retention, and promotion processes that impact the District’s ability to attract and retain a diverse faculty and staff;
   2. Advise on implementing the District’s obligation to hire faculty and administrators with a demonstrated sensitivity to, and understanding of, the diverse academic, socioeconomic, cultural, disability and ethnic backgrounds of community college students;
   3. Promote communication with community groups and organizations for people with disabilities;
   4. Promote hiring of faculty who have, themselves, graduated from a community college;
   5. Develop communications among departments to foster understandings of the EEO Plan;
   6. Advise the Superintendent/President regarding special training or staff development needs;
   7. Review the EEO Plan and monitor its progress;
   8. Recommend changes needed in the EEO Plan; and
9. Review and approve the annual written report to the Superintendent/President, the Board of Trustees, and the Chancellor's Office for the California Community Colleges.

Employment Procedures

D. Job Analysis and Validation:
The Dean, Human Resources shall assure that a proper job analysis is performed for every job filled by the District to determine and validate the knowledge, skills, abilities and characteristics an employee must possess to perform the job satisfactorily.

A statement of bona fide essential functions and minimum qualifications shall be developed for all positions.

E. Job Description:
Every job description shall provide a general statement of job duties and responsibilities.

Job specifications shall include functions and tasks; knowledge; skills; ability; and job related personal characteristics, including but not limited to sensitivity to and understanding of the diverse academic, socioeconomic, cultural, linguistic, disability, and ethnic backgrounds of community college students.

F. Recruitment:
Recruitment must be conducted actively within and outside of the District work force.

Open recruitment is mandated for all new full-time and part-time positions, except under limited circumstances involving interim hires.

Recruitment must utilize outreach strategies designed to ensure that all qualified individuals, from all monitored groups, are provided the opportunity to seek employment with the District.

Recruitment for administrative and faculty positions (full and part-time) may include advertisement in appropriate professional journals, job registries and newspapers of general circulation; distribution of job announcements to the EEO Registry, K-12 districts, two and four year colleges, and graduate schools where appropriate candidates might be enrolled; recruitment at conferences, fairs, and professional meetings; notices to institutions and professional organizations that primarily serve members of monitored groups that are underrepresented in the District.

Recruitment for classified positions shall include notice to all District personnel; notice to Employment Development Department; and advertising in area newspapers of general circulation.

G. Applicant Pools: The application for employment shall afford each applicant an opportunity to identify himself or herself voluntarily as to gender, ethnicity and, if
applicable, his or her disability. This information shall be maintained in confidence and shall be used only for research, validation, monitoring, evaluation of the effectiveness of the EEO Plan, or as authorized by law.

After the application deadline has passed, the initial applicant pool shall be analyzed to determine whether the projected representation has been achieved for monitored groups. If these projections have not been met, the District shall immediately determine whether the failure to meet the projected representation of monitored groups in the initial pool was due to discriminatory practices. If not, the hiring process may continue to the next level. If, however, the District determines that discriminatory practices caused the underrepresentation, the District may immediately, and before the selection process continues, consult with legal counsel to determine what, if any, corrective action is required by law.

Once the qualified pool is formed, the pool must again be analyzed. If this analysis reveals adverse impact against any monitored group, the District may immediately, and before the selection process continues, consult with legal counsel to determine what, if any, corrective action is required by law.

H. Screening and Selection:
Screening, selecting and interviewing candidates for all positions shall include thorough and fair procedures that are sensitive to issues of diversity. Procedures to be used must address or include that:
1. Hiring procedures will be provided to the state Chancellor’s Office on request.
2. All tests conform to generally applicable legal standards for uniformity.
3. A reasonable number of candidates are identified for interview.
4. Screening and selection committees are developed that are representative of the District community and campus; include administrators, faculty and classified staff; include a diverse membership when possible; do not include applicants or persons who have written letters of recommendation.
5. Every screening and selection committee includes an individual trained to monitor conformance with EEO requirements. The EEO Officer assures that the screening and selection process conforms to accepted principles and practices, including preparation of job related questions in advance; maintains records of screening checklists and rating scales, which shall be signed and kept on file; maintains notes for all interviews and record relevant factual reasons stating why a candidate was not hired or was not invited to interview; and monitors the hiring process for adverse impact.
6. Selection shall be based solely on the stated job criteria.

I. Underrepresentation of Monitored Groups:
If the District determines that a particular monitored group is significantly underrepresented with respect to one or more job categories, the District shall take the following additional steps:
1. Review its recruitment procedures;
2. Consult with counsel to determine whether there are other, additional measures that may be undertaken that are required and/or permitted by law;
3. Consider various other means of reducing the underrepresentation which do not involve taking monitored group status into account and implement any such techniques that are feasible;
4. If significant underrepresentation persists:
   a. monitor on an on-going basis;
   b. review each locally-established job qualification to determine if it is job
      related and consistent with business necessity;
   c. discontinue the use of any non job related local qualification; and
   d. continue using job-related local qualifications only if no alternative
      standard is reasonably available.

J. Delegation of Authority
1. The designation of a single person as the “EEO Officer” charged with
   overseeing the day-to-day implementation of the EEO Plan and programs.
2. Processes and responsibilities when the EEO Officer is named in a complaint
   or implicated by the allegations in a complaint.

K. Complaint Procedure
The District has designated the Dean, Human Resources as the individual
   described in Title 5 as the “responsible District officer,” responsible for receiving
   complaints. Informal charges of unlawful discrimination should be brought to
   the attention of the Dean, Human Resources. The Dean, Human Resources
   shall oversee the informal resolution process. The actual investigation of
   complaints may be assigned to other staff or to outside persons or
   organizations under contract. An outside investigator must be used when the
   Dean, Human Resources is named in the complaint or implicated by the
   allegations in the complaint.

When a person brings charges of unlawful discrimination the Dean, Human
   Resources must:
   1. Undertake efforts to resolve the charge informally;
   2. Advise the complainant that he or she need not participate in an informal
      resolution of the complaint;
   3. Notify the complainant of the procedures for filing a formal complaint;
   4. Notify the complainant that he or she may file a complaint with the Office
      of Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education.

If the complainant, a student or an employee, files a formal complaint, the
   responsible District officer must also forward a copy of the complaint to the
   state Chancellor’s Office.

A formal complaint not involving employment, must be processed if it is filed
   within one year of the date of the alleged unlawful discrimination or within one
   year of the date on which the complainant knew or should have known of the
   facts underlying the allegation.

A formal complaint alleging discrimination in employment must be filed within
   180 days of the date of the alleged unlawful discrimination, unless the
   complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged violation after
   the expiration of the initial 180 days.
The complaint must be filed by someone who alleges that he or she has personally suffered unlawful discrimination, or by someone who has learned about unlawful discrimination in his or her official capacity.

When a proper complaint is received, the District will begin an impartial fact-finding investigation, and notify the complainant and the Chancellor that it is doing so.

When the investigation is done, the results must be set forth in a written report. The written report must include a description of the circumstances giving rise to the complaint, a summary of the testimony of each witness, an analysis of any relevant data or other evidence collected during the investigation, a specific finding as to whether discrimination did or did not occur with respect to each allegation in the complaint, and any other appropriate information.

In any case that does not involve employment discrimination, the District must provide the Chancellor with a copy of the investigative report within ninety days from the date the District received the complaint. The District must also provide the complainant with a copy or summary of the investigative report within ninety days from the date the District received the complaint. The Chancellor and the complainant must also be provided with a written notice setting forth the determination of the Dean, Human Resources as to whether discrimination did or did not occur with respect to each allegation in the complaint; a description of action taken, if any, to prevent similar problems from occurring in the future; the proposed resolution of the complaint; and notice of the complainant's right to appeal to the District's governing board and the state Chancellor's Office.

In any case that involves employment discrimination, the District must provide the complainant with a copy or summary of the report, and with written notice setting forth the determination of the Dean, Human Resources as to whether discrimination did or did not occur with respect to each allegation in the complaint; a description of action taken, if any, to prevent similar problems from occurring in the future; the proposed resolution of the complaint; and the complainant's right to appeal to the District's governing board and to file a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing.

If the complainant is not satisfied with the results of the administrative determination, the complainant must be given the opportunity to submit a written appeal to the governing board within fifteen days from the date of the notice of the administrative determination. The Board must review the original complaint, the investigative report, the administrative determination, and the appeal and must issue a final District decision within forty-five days of receiving the appeal.

In any case not involving employment discrimination, a copy of the final District decision must be promptly forwarded to the complainant and the state Chancellor's Office. The complainant must be notified of his or her right to appeal. In any case involving employment discrimination, a copy of the final District decision must be promptly forwarded to the complainant. The
complainant must be notified of his or her right to file a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing.

Where the Board does not act within forty-five days the administrative determination must be deemed approved and must become the final District decision. The District shall promptly notify the complainant and in cases not involving employment discrimination, the Chancellor, that the Board took no action and the administrative determination becomes the final District decision. In cases not involving employment discrimination, the complainant must be informed of his or her right to appeal the District’s decision to the Chancellor. In cases involving employment discrimination, the complainant shall be notified of his or her right to file a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing.

In cases not involving employment discrimination, the complainant must be given the right to file a written appeal with the state Chancellor’s Office within 30 days after the Board issues the final District decision, permits the administrative decision to become final or from the date that notice of the District’s final decision was provided to the complainant pursuant to Section 59338(b) or (d), whichever is later.

The District should retain and make available the original complaint, and copies of the final decision or a statement indicating the date on which the administrative determination became final, the notice given to complainant, the complainant’s appeal of the District’s administrative determination, the investigative report and any other information the Chancellor may require.

L. Job Announcements
All job announcements shall contain a statement in substantially the following form: The District is an equal opportunity employer. The policy of the District is to encourage applications from ethnic and racial minorities, women, persons with disabilities, and Vietnam-era veterans. No person shall be denied employment because of ethnicity or race, color, sex or gender, age, religion, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, national origin, medical conditions, status as a Vietnam-era veteran, ancestry, or political or organizational affiliation.

M. Dissemination and Revision of the EEO Plan
All managers and supervisors shall be given copies of the EEO Plan as revised from time to time and any guidelines for implementing the EEO Plan. Copies of the EEO Plan shall be provided to the Academic Senate and the exclusive representatives of any units of employees.

Statements of nondiscrimination shall be posted at locations where applications for employment are distributed.

Such EEO Plans shall be reviewed at least every three years and, if necessary, revised and submitted to the state Chancellor’s Office within 90 days of the effective date of the revision or amendment(s). If the Chancellor determines
that a district’s policies are not in compliance with 59300 et al., the Chancellor may require the District to modify its policies.

Reference: Educ. Code Sections 87100 et seq.; Title 5 Sections 53000 et seq. and Sections 59300 et seq.

May 12, 2009