Comprehensive Program Review Report (Narrative)
College of the Sequoias
Program Review - Agriculture

**Program Review - Agriculture**

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**What are the strengths of your area?:**
1. Strong ties to the Agriculture industry represented by advisory committee members. Most of the Ag Classes are represented by members of the Plant Science Advisory Committee and represent local industry. The experience and knowledge of the committee members will help the Agriculture faculty to make changes to the curriculum to maintain courses in the program current and relevant to the industry.

2. Several courses in the program (Ag 2, Ag 3, Ag 4 and PLSI 1) meet General Education credit. Many students take courses in the program as transferable credit to a state university, or for preparation and qualification for the Pest Control Adviser and Qualified Applicator License exams.

3. Classes for this program are offered at the Hanford Center and at the Tulare College center. Having classes at both centers makes the program more accessible to students in the surrounding communities.

**What improvements are needed?:**
1. Hire a full-time faculty member. The Faculty Lead in the Plant Science program retired at the end of the 2013-2014 academic year. All classes in the program are being taught by adjunct faculty. It is difficult to find adjunct faculty available to teach during the day. Limited number of adjunct faculty is available to teach all required courses in the program.

2. Updating course outlines, curriculum and Certificate Program. Various course outlines in the program need to be revised. The Certificate Program needs to be updated with input from members of the Advisory Committee. Student learner outcomes and program outcomes need to be reviewed, updated and aligned to the state's Transfer Model Curriculum in Agriculture Plant Science.

3. Increase student awareness about career opportunities in production Agriculture related to Plant Science. Develop a brochure highlighting the Plant Science Program that can be utilized for student outreach, recruitment and advisement. This brochure is needed to facilitate the student outreach and recruitment efforts at local high school programs, and local community events. It may also be used in the advisement of students by faculty in the Agriculture division and members of the Counseling division.

4. Develop a 5-year scheduling plan that incorporates all required classes in the program. This plan will facilitate the class scheduling process each semester. It may also be used by the counselors as they meet with students to form their educational plans and semester schedules.

**Describe any external opportunities or challenges.:**
1. Increased industry need for trained program completers to enter the labor force. As the demand for a trained labor force continues to increase, ties to the local Agricultural industry have the potential to increase, thus increasing the support of local industry leaders to provide resources to properly train students to industry standards.

2. Potential for increased student outreach and recruitment from local area high schools. The local area high schools continue to maintain strong Agricultural Education Programs. This presents an opportunity to recruit students from those local programs.

Additionally, the General Ag Courses that are taught in Ag Leadership are problematic as they are no longer repeatable. A new course needs to be designed so that students can be involved in an Ag Leadership class both semesters.

**Action: Ag Leadership**

Develop a spring semester Ag Leadership course

**Implementation Timeline: 2014 - 2015**

**Start Date:** 01/02/2015

**Completion Date:** 04/01/2015

**Status:** New Action
Person(s) Responsible (Name and Position): Ag Staff and the Dean of CTE
Priority: Medium
Safety Issue: No
External Mandate: No