Prepared by: Kristin Robinson  

**What are the strengths of your area?:** The Fire Technology Program has several strengths which include, but are not limited to:

- Success of students in the Fire program is high in the program, as evidenced by a 100% success rate in Fire 270 which is the Basic Fire Fighter Academy Class.
- Of the 15 Fire Technology Courses offered for the 2012/2013 Academic year, eight of them had 100% success rates, and four had success rates over 70%.
- Students’ coursework in the Fire Academy Program is articulated at the university level and allows for students to pursue higher degrees while working in the field as firefighters.
- A Majority of the courses offered are designed and regulated by the State of California Fire Marshal’s office under the training divisions. The courses have mandated curriculum, textbooks, and required hours for completion of the program.

**What improvements are needed?:** The Fire Technology Program has several weaknesses which include, but are not limited to:

- While the FIRE 270 has a 6-year average of 2.3 females per year, the Spring 2013 FIRE 270 class did not have any female cadets.
- There are not any full-time faculty who teach in the program. In addition, there is a part-time coordinator who oversees the program.
- The program is in a state of transition with the part-time coordinator.
- While the Fire Technology Program has its own classroom, it still share facilities with Police Academy Classes. As such, scheduling becomes challenging for specialized room.
- Because of staffing transition, there are several courses that need to be updated through the curriculum process.

**Describe any external opportunities or challenges.:**

- Currently, there is lack of full-time employment for students who have completed the District’s certification program. As a result of the current economy, many local governments have decreased the size of the departments, thereby decreasing overall job possibilities. We believe this has discouraged many students from pursuing a career in the fire service. While it hasn’t decreased enrollment in the program, it has decreased the number of students on waiting lists.
- Gender imbalance for both students and faculty is not reflective of general student population. Over the last two academic years, female participation in Fire Classes has average just over 7%, while the overall District’s female participation is over 50%.

A challenge is the upcoming changes in from the State Fire Marshal's office regarding curriculum changes for beginning in 2015. Sierra College has piloted the project and has determined the new requirements will cost approximately $10,000 ongoing increased funding for staff. (See Documents in Documents folder)

**Overall Outcome Achievement:** As the department is in a time of transition, there are outcomes for three courses that were offered during the 2012-2013 academic year that still need to have assessment results entered. There are 13 courses which have had assessments established and evaluated. All goals have been met. An analysis of FTES indicates a significant drop (23%) from 2010-11 to 2012-13. This decrease can be attributed to the economy and it very difficult for placement upon graduation from the Fire Fighter 1 academy. For many of our advanced officer classes, other reductions can be attributed to agencies providing additional training on agency sites, so people do not need to take these course from the College of the Sequoias.

**Changes based on outcome:** Since the courses that completed some sort of assessment had targets met, very few additional changes are planned. This is based on two underlying foundation.

**Outcome cycle evaluation:** The department seems to be making satisfactory progress within the three-year assessment cycle in a majority of its courses. Because the department is currently in a time of transition, is staffed by a part-time coordinator, adjunct faculty, and paraprofessionals, maintaining the schedule is challenging.

**Action: Part-time Coordinator Replacement**

Action needs to take place in order to hire a new part-time coordinator. As a replacement position, this does not have additional costs to the District.

**Implementation Timeline:**

- **Start Date:** 10/20/2014
- **Completion Date:** 11/21/2014
- **Status:** New Action

**Identify related course/program outcomes:**

Provides stability and specialized leadership for the Fire Technology Program.
Action: Evaluation of New Requirements
As there are a lot of changes in 2015 with California State Fire Training, the Fire Technology program will be impacted. The accredited fire academy will need to be reevaluated, courses changed and updated, and an increase in budget to run both the fire fighter 1 and 2 academy.

Start Date: 11/17/2014
Completion Date: 01/30/2015
Status: New Action

Identify related course/program outcomes:
Curriculum which is directed by the State, will need to be evaluated, budgets changed, and logistics arranged.

Person(s) Responsible (Name and Position): Coordinator, Fire Training
Priority: High
Safety Issue: No
External Mandate: Yes