Project Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reexamine our mission and define our vision.</td>
<td>COMPLETED</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Updated</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-Understanding Students' and Other Stakeholders' Needs</td>
<td>09-12-2006</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Timeline</th>
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<tr>
<td>Planned Project Kickoff 05-28-2004</td>
<td>11-24-2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual Completion</td>
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1: **Project Goal**

A: Review and modify the mission statement of Rio Grande to address the needs of the institution. Create a focused vision to maintain a culture of teaching and learning at Rio. The creation of a vision statement will become the basis for a mission statement and a strategic action plan for the future of the University toward a common goal.

2: **Reasons For Project**

A: To effectively focus the University and Community College toward a common goal.

3: **Organizational Areas Affected**

A: The entire institution: various departments, offices and units will be involved in the discussions and development of the main functions of this institution and how the perceived main functions would be accurately captured in our mission statement.

4: **Key Organizational Process(es)**

A: *Culture of teaching and learning: discussions among faculty and support services on how a culture of teaching and learning could be nurtured on campus. *Students: students’ input on how students can play a more active part in developing this culture of teaching and learning will be obtained through both course embedded assignment/activities and student surveys. *Faculty: the discussion of establishing a center for teaching excellence would facilitate the process of how to develop this culture for teaching and learning. *Staff: to include staff in various processes that will provide students an environment in which they can learn. *Administration: to support internal stakeholders of the Institution in developing a culture of teaching and learning. *Trustees: discussions among Board of Trustee members, both University and Community College, align with the Mission and Vision in progressing toward the future. *Community Agencies: discussion with Community Agencies to meet their expectations of graduates’ abilities and to provide new programs to meet the needs for the future in the same direction as our mission and vision.

5: **Project Time Frame Rationale**

A: Continuous involvement of all stakeholders to keep the focus toward a common goal.

6: **Project Success Monitoring**

A: *Identify needs of student groups: students’ input on course evaluations and surveys can assist with the development of a culture of teaching and learning. *Identify needs of stakeholders: groups of stakeholders, both internal and external, could provide input through the use of surveys to reflect the degree that the Mission and Vision is being incorporated in day-to-day operations of the institution.

7: **Project Outcome Measures**

A: Reexamined mission statement and a newly created vision based on the reexamined mission would be drafted and approved. Campus stakeholders would be effectively focused upon a common goal. Our commitment to achieve our historical mission and define
our purpose to maintain our culture of teaching and learning at Rio would be accomplished.

### Project Update

#### 1: Project Accomplishments and Status

**A:** The mission statement of Rio Grande was reviewed and modified to reflect the needs of the institution. A focused vision statement was created that enhanced the culture of teaching and learning at Rio. This project has been in a holding pattern for a while, but hopefully is moving forward this year. Previous administration wanted to wait until a contract was established between the Community College Board of Trustees and the University Board of Trustees. Once the contract was established, the mission/vision statement was distributed to both boards at their summer 2006 meetings. The members have been asked to send their comments to Interim University President, Dr. Greg Sojka and Interim Community College Board President, Dr. Herm Koby, who in turn will forward the information to the committee chair. The overall "outcome" measures have been met for this Project.

#### 2: Institution Involvement

**A:** Originally a committee was formed to work on this project. The committee members included stakeholders from all areas of the campus – faculty, staff, and students. Committee membership decreased throughout the course of this project. The committee tried to involve as many interested individuals as possible, who were willing to meet and work on the revision of the statement and creation of the vision. The mission/vision statement was shared with the distance learning policy committee. Suggestions were made and shared with the project committee. Revisions were made to the mission/vision statement. The revised mission and vision statement was then shared with both the Community College Board of Trustees and the University Board of Trustees meetings during July 2006. The revised mission/vision was also presented to the university community at the annual faculty development day at the beginning of fall semester, 2006.

#### 3: Next Steps

**A:** The next step will be to wait until comments, questions, concerns, and/or suggestions are received from the members of the Community College Board of Trustees and the University Board of Trustees. As noted early in this project, input was needed from all levels of stakeholders. Again, this will be the last level of input. The committee will then have a meeting to review the comments, revise the statements accordingly, and disseminate the information to all stakeholders via email, Rio AQIP website, and/or letters. By January 31, 2007, this project should be completed and the revised mission and new vision should be ready for implementation.

#### 4: Resulting Effective Practices

**A:** Again, the only effective practices that have resulted from this work are that communication is essential to the accomplishment of any task. One has to be open to any and all comments, to see all sides, and to realize that you are working toward a common goal. This is something that we will try to continue utilizing in the processes of our next planned AQIP activities.

#### 5: Project Challenges

**A:** The fact that we are waiting on comments from members of the two boards of trustees. The contractual agreement between the boards and their communication process to the campus community has been a challenge. Another challenge has been to keep individuals interested in this project. It still continues to be a work in progress.

#### 6: AQIP Involvement

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Update Review

1: Project Accomplishments and Status

A: A clear focus on teaching and learning is key to the success of any institution. This certainly supports AQIP Category 1, Helping Students Learn, as well as the Primary Category selected for this project. Keeping the mission and vision statements very visible on the website and across campus, will help to reinforce the commitment to learning.

2: Institution Involvement

A: A cross-functional committee is essential for a project focused on the mission statement, and creation of a vision statement. This reinforces AQIP Category 3, Understanding students’ and Other Stakeholders’ Needs. If, as stated, the project moved slowly, it's not unusual to lose some committee members. However, as mentioned in the Action Project description, the planned use of students’ course evaluations, and surveys with various constituencies should have maintained a good level of input.

3: Next Steps

A: A mission and vision statement that meets the needs of both the University and the Community College is a major undertaking, and understandably, a lengthy process. Once the boards have both given their input, and the revised mission and new vision statements are complete, other projects and opportunities should arise during the implementation process.

4: Resulting Effective Practices

A: This statement embodies a number of AQIP categories. Communication is key to any successful AQIP process, and the communication also reinforces other AQIP categories, such as Valuing People and Building Collaborative Relationships.

5: Project Challenges

A: Working with two boards of trustees, each with their own individual challenges and responsibilities is bound to take time. However, their involvement demonstrates AQIP Category 5, Leading and Communicating. Making any change in a mission statement, and developing a new vision statement are not tasks to be taken lightly by the leadership of the respective institutions. Once these are finalized, and an implementation and awareness campaign begin, there will be an opportunity to re-energize the campus community.

6: AQIP Involvement

A: