

**Recommendation For Inclusion of Distance Education
in the Mission Statement of the College**

The Distance Education Committee recommends that Pasadena City College commit to planning and implementing a distance education program with policies and procedures in place, so that faculty and staff can offer equivalent academic content and student services within an appropriate college support structure with ongoing oversight.

Rationale:

Both the U.S. Department of Education and the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges affirm that an institution that undertakes a distance education program, should have a mission statement that is explicit in its commitment to offering quality distance education.

Therefore, the development of a distance education program should be congruent with the strategic plan and mission of this Institution, in fostering successful student learning. Furthermore, administration and the Board of Trustees should be able to articulate the strategic importance of distance education and its role in the strategic plan and mission of the institution.

A well-articulated, institutional mission statement should be explicit about its goals of increasing access to a diverse population of learners, reaching out to underserved or special populations (such as working adults), serving students who need time and place flexibility, or those who wish to develop technology as well as subject-area fluency.

References:

Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges Western Association of Schools and Colleges. *Distance Learning Manual* (2008). Accessed 6/30/09.
http://www.accjc.org/pdf/Distance_Learning_Manual_August_2008.pdf

U. S Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education (2006). *Evidence of Quality in Distance Education Programs Drawn from Interviews with the Accreditation Community*. Accessed 8/10/09. <http://www.ysu.edu/accreditation/Resources/Accreditation-Evidence-of-Quality-in-DE-Programs.pdf>

Walton, I., James-Hanz, P., North, W., Pilati, M. (2008). *Ensuring the Appropriate Use of Educational Technology: An Update for Local Academic Senates*. Accessed 5/13/09.
http://www.asccc.org/Publications/Papers/Education_Technology.htm

Recommendation Approved by the Distance Education Committee - October 13, 2009
Recommendation Approved by the Academic Senate – November 23, 2009