#### **PROGRAM REVIEW Fall 2017**

Program: Veterans First Program Division: Enrollment Services

Date: 9/28/17

Writer(s): Todd Steffan / Sylvia Rodriguez SLO/SAO Point-Person: Todd Steffan

**Audience:** Deans, Vice Presidents of Student Services and Academic Services, All Planning and Allocation Committees. This document will be available to the public.

**Uses:** This Program Review will be used to inform the campus and community about your program. It will also be used in the processes of creating Division Summaries, determining College Planning Priorities and allocating resources. A final use is to document fulfillment of accreditation requirements.

**Time Frame:** This Program Review should reflect on program status during the 2016-17 academic year. It should describe plans starting now and continuing through 2017-18. This document also provides the opportunity to describe more long-term plans (optional).

**Sections:** The first section of this Program Review focuses on general program reflection and planning. The second section is a review of curriculum. Only programs with curriculum need to complete Section 2. The third section is a CTE update, to be completed by CTE programs only.

**Topics:** A list of topics of particular interest to Program Review readers can be found here: https://goo.gl/23jrxt

Help: Contact Karin Spirn: kspirn@laspositascollege.edu

#### Instructions:

- 1) Please respond to each question as completely as possible.
- 2) If the requested information does not apply to your program, write "Not Applicable."
- 3) Optional: Meet with your dean to review this document before October 13.
- 4) Send an electronic copy of this form to Karin Spirn and your Dean by October 16

#### Links:

Program Review Home Page: https://goo.gl/XATgjJ

Fall 2016 Program Review Updates: https://goo.gl/YV8QOt

Frequently Asked Questions: <a href="https://goo.gl/ilhRtt">https://goo.gl/ilhRtt</a>

#### • Section One: Program Snapshot

### A. Data Review: Describe any significant changes to your program's data since last year's Program Review Update (Fall 2016).

Possible sources of relevant information might include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Data generated by your program
- Data from the Office of Institutional Research (https://goo.gl/WuR9cQ)
- CEMC Data
- Labor Market Data
- SLO/SAO Data

#### Here are the significant changes to the Veterans First program 2016/2017

- Fall 2016 The addition of a dedicated full time Veterans counselor/faculty has significantly impacted the level and quality of services provided to our Veterans. This has always been a goal of the VFP as noted in previous program reviews. This important permanent position has allowed the VFP to evolve to a true one-stop shop for student Veterans, Active Duty, Reservists/Guard, and Spouses/Dependents of Veterans. Outcomes include increased access, advocacy, connection, intervention, and less wait time for Veterans to make appointments. VFP has also been able to provide new improved services, such as counseling via phone and on-line (Zoom video conference) for those who are unable to come to the college, for those who are still active in the military, as well as those who commute from over an hour away. This allows many to get all student success requirements done, as well as registering for classes before they get out of the service and on campus. Qualitative feedback from student Veterans with this new service has been nothing but positive. We are able to have more active duty set up for the correct classes, meet priority registration requirements, etc. who are contacting the VFP from all over the world. (add date of growth)
- Spring 2017 –The Resource and Allocation Committee and the President approved a new full-time Veterans Specialist (position in noted in previous programs reviews). Since the inception of the Veterans First Program, with approx. 100 student veterans and no Veterans Resource Center, the same one person has been developing and implementing many programs and services for Veterans, while still doing certification of benefits for over 500 plus students receiving federal VA educational benefits. Part-time hourly has been utilized for the past years, because of the increasing number of Veterans utilizing VA benefits at LPC and also other services and programs for Veterans, such as the larger VRC, which now space is no longer adequate.
- Spring 2017 Governor brown funding for Veterans Resource Centers in community colleges. For the past two years the VFP has along with student Veterans advocating strongly at the state capital attending various board of governors, senate and assembly, state budget, veterans committee, and other key meetings, new legislation was approved with the 2017 state budget to include 5 million one time and 5 million on going funding specifically for Veterans Resource Centers at CA community colleges. Although this is not enough funds to make a significant impact in services and programs throughout the 114 community colleges, it is a start of dedicated state funding for Veterans programs and resource centers. In Nov. 2017, LPC Veterans coordinator/regional representative and other Veterans regional reps will be meeting to discuss and make recommendations on allocating this one time and on-going funding, which may be very beneficial for LPC and Chabot Veterans programs.
- The VFP is eagerly anticipating being involved in discussions, work groups, and committees
  that will address plans for facilities expansion due to the passage of Measure A. One of the
  key initiatives promised to the voters if passed, is to improve services and resource for

- Veterans on both campuses. Advocacy for this space will be a priority to ensure our Veterans receive the support promise by our local voters.
- Veterans program continues to experience growth while many colleges Veterans numbers are flat or declining. Most recent data collected, spring 2017 student enrollment at LPC college shows approximately 9,300, including 479 Veteran students. Over the last five years, LPC has experienced significant growth in our population of Veteran students. Between 2013 and 2016, the veteran population increased 61% (from 297 to 479). Our veteran population growth has outpaced the overall LPC student population growth (4%) during the same period of time. Although 48% of the Veterans population etnicity is white, LPC VFP has experienced a large increase in latino Veterans. Spring 2012 the Veterans Latino population was 18%, Fall 2015 it ncreased to 26%, followed by another 2% increase the next year.
- Spring 2017 collaborations started with LPC Veterans First Program (VFP) and Valor Crossing Veterans housing project in Dublin, which opened Summer 2017. LPC VFP completed an MOU to provide weekly services and support at this site.
- Fall 2016 thru Spring 2017 was a very challenging period for the entire country. The VRC
  was no different with division of the country. A consultant was hired and brought in to
  conduct various sessions with the VFP staff as well as students focusing on communication,
  self-reflection, respect, and understanding. The outcomes and training was presented at
  spring flex day and division meeting.

### B. Changes to Program and Needs: Describe any significant changes to your program or your program's needs since the previous Program Review Update (Fall 2016).

In fall 2017, with the increase staffing (counselor and Veterans specialist), growth of the student Veterans populations, and utilization of the VRC space is an issue. The current configuration of the VRC consist of only 3 offices: 1) coordinator, 2) the Veterans counselor, 3) ft. Veterans specialist. With the continue student Veteran growth, additional services and programs, and collaborations with other outside Veterans services, the number of offices available is not adequate. The program has out growth the space. Challenges include: office space for adjunct faculty, confidential space for intake related VA health care benefit claims, mental health readjustment/transition counseling, and Veteran organization/community representatives. For example, Palo Alto VA medical professionals have to utilize the small storage for room for one on one confidential meeting. In addition, both the conference/support subject room and the computer room do not meet the needs of space of the Veterans. More computers need to be added, due the popular usage by current Vets. A larger common area for student Veterans is also needed. This area would also be used for larger workshops such as resume building, orientations, academic progress workshops, etc. The current lounge can only accommodate approx. 10 people. The program has out grown the existing lounge area. More study

	an X next to each area that
is auu	ressed in your response.
Defini	tions of terms:
https:/	<u>//goo.gl/23jrxt</u>
	Community
	Partnerships/Outreach
	Curriculum*
	Enrollment Management
	External Factors
Χ	Facilities,** Supplies and
	Equipment (Including
	Software)
	Financial/Budgetary
	Human Resources
	Learning Support
	LPC Planning Priorities
	https://goo.gl/LU99m1
	Pedagogy
	Professional
	Development
Χ	Services to Students
	SLO/SAO Process
	Technology Use

space is needed and should be programed into the future VRC. The program has been building its successful support subject assistance, esp. with math. More storage space for VA files, outreach materials and items, signage, etc. is also needed. The current space is inadequate.

Funding from the college and not from the fund raising the program does needs to be set for items as supplies, ink, paper, etc. The VFP is the only program does fund raising for items such as supplies needed. Funds are also needed for the events it hosts for the community, such as USAF concert band, Honoring Veterans Day at LPC, 9.11 Remembrance, which are free for those attend, but cost for facility use, staffing for the facility use, pr, etc. This should not be reliant if the program raises its own funds.

The VFP currently has a donated old electric cart which is utilized constantly for providing accessibility for current LPC Veterans and community members with mobility who visit the program and events it puts on, outreach, transporting items such as signage, etc. The cart needs to be replaced with a more modern cart.

- \*Curriculum will also be addressed in Part 2 (Curriculum Review).
- \*\*Facilities will also be addressed in Question H.

### C. Reflection: What plans from the <u>2016 Program Review Update</u> or any <u>previous Program Reviews/Updates</u> have been achieved and how?

Students have been positively impacted by the addition of the fulltime and adjunct Veterans counselors in the Veterans Resource Center. As continued quality and increase services continues, current and past Veterans will tell those who they know who are currently serving to come to LPC because of the Veterans First Program. This has been proven as the number one method in getting new student Veterans to attend LPC. Currently we have Veterans come from over 52 cities in the Bay and valley.

Because of the data demonstrating the continued growth, the additional Veterans specialist was approved to be added.

During 2016/2017, many new items occurred impacting the VFP. Each of the following items, the VFP tried to address each item with the resources it had available.

New changes affecting program development.

- With over 50% of student Veterans coming from the valley – Tracy, Stockton, Manteca, Lathrop, etc. transportation is an issue. The VFP addressed this by utilizing and promoting the college ACE and Wheels program. VFP pays for the ½ that is charged by ACE.
- Bay area cost of living continues to cause challenges for housing for Veterans. A collaboration and MOU with Valor Crossing, Dublin to link to housing.
- Cont' support for state advocacy caused results, first

Mark an X next to each area that is addressed in your response.

Definitions of terms: <a href="https://goo.gl/23jrxt">https://goo.gl/23jrxt</a>

C	Community
	Partnerships/Outreach
C	Curriculum*
E	Enrollment Management
E	External Factors
F	acilities,** Supplies and
	Equipment (Including
S	Software)
F	inancial/Budgetary
H	łuman Resources
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F	Pedagogy
F	Professional
	Development
S	Services to Students
S	SLO/SAO Process
T	echnology Use
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- time ever Veterans was a line item in the state budget. Although small, it is a start.
- With growth of Veterans attending LPC, more VA benefits files increasing, utilizing hourly to process, a permanent Veterans specialist position approval
- Community mentoring
- The VFP has been exploring and developing a new Veterans course. Been working with a professor from Pasadena college who teaches a very successful Veterans class.
- With the success of the AS Engineering Tech model, other programs are being looked at to follow a similar model. Adding hands on / internship component to the degree.
- Challenges from politics to the division of the country, required intervention and coaching. A consultant was brought in to work with staff and students in understanding and communication. Results of this series of workshops was presented at flex day and also during division meeting.

\*\*Facilities will also be addressed in Question H.

## D. Impacts to Students (Optional): Discuss at least one example of how students have been impacted by the work of your program since the last Program Review Update (only if you did not already answer this in Questions A, B or C).

Student Veterans are able to have quicker and easier access to the Veteran Counselor now that a designated counselor is in the Veterans Resource Center. This also allows the student Veterans to develop a better rapport with the same Veterans counselor. This is another strong pillar of the one stop model of the Veterans First Program. It was a big benefit in having a Veteran adjunct counselor during the summer when most of the new Veterans arrive on campus. Individuals usually join the military high school, June thru Aug. They often get out and show on campus for guidance June thru Aug. Many campuses follow the standard 9 month counselor contract in which they do not have any or very limited having an academic counselors available these critical months. This allows the student Veterans to be in the correct classes for their VA benefits as well as be processed quicker and accurately without having to change. The quality of services LPC Veterans receive is above other colleges which is one of the reason of the continued growth of Veterans attending LPC.

	an X next to each area that ressed in your response.		
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Review).
**Facilities will also be
addressed in Question H.

#### E. Obstacles: What obstacles has your program faced in achieving plans and goals?

As stated each year, funding, staffing, and space continue to be main issues, as the program growth demands continues to outpace services, staffing, and space. LPC developed a Veterans Resource Center in 2009 and has continued its development to the point where we are currently serving 600 Veterans per year. In addition to the adjacent suburban cities of Pleasanton and Dublin, the College target area encompasses a wide geographic range beyond the footprint of a typical community college, including many students (60%) from cities outside our service area. Cities that feed into the College's include Stockton, Tracy, Manteca, and Modesto. Spring 2017 student enrollment at our college is approximately 9,300, including 479 Veteran students. Over the last five years, LPC has experienced significant growth in our population of Veteran students. Between 2013 and 2016, the veteran population increased 61% (from 297 to 479). Our veteran population growth has outpaced the overall LPC student population growth (4%) during the same period of time. Special traditionally at risk populations within the Veterans population has shown significant increases Hispanic veterans at LPC has increased from 23% to 31%, making this traditionally at-risk group the highest represented minority group in the pool. These changes in student population become especially important when we consider that Hispanic students tend to be less prepared academically than their peers. For example, 74% of Hispanic Veterans assess into remedial English while 63% of their peers assess into basic skills English courses. Similarly, 79% of Hispanic veterans test into remedial math compared to 65% of their peers

Although the new current VRC is much larger than the first VRC, the increase of student Veterans and also the new services, such as counseling in the VRC, the VFP has out grown the current VRC.

The current VRC space is no longer adequate for the various services and programs now offered. For example office space for new services cannot be accommodated because all three offices are currently occupied. When outside services, such as VA Healthcare representatives or congressional liaison needs an office that provides a safe and confidential area, we do not have the additional offices. Social, gathering, group meeting

Mark an X next to each area that is addressed in your response.

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<sup>\*\*</sup>Facilities will also be addressed in Question H.

spaces also need to be increased, due to the increased number of Veterans that the program is serving. The recent passage of Measure A should help support the building of the next new Veterans Resource Center that should help meet the growing needs of the VFP and its VRC. One of the main initiatives of Measure A is to support new facilities and improved services for Veterans.

### F. Short Term Planning: What are your most important plans (either new or continuing) for next year?

The most important plans for next year, include the following.

- Advocacy for identifying adequate space and design needs for the future new VRC.
- Continue to work with IRR to collect and analyze data, such as completion rates, retention rates, student
   Veterans demographics. Also work with IT to develop mini reports for the program to identify needs, trends, etc. to better serve Veterans.
- Continue to develop newer communication tools between the VFP and future, current, and past student Veterans. Currently piloting a VFP app. Would like to develop and promote the use VFP app in the near future.
- Expand mental health services for Veterans. Provide more training for staff, faculty, and administration on Veterans mental needs.
- Complete the development of a course for Veterans coming to college – focusing on success strategies and leadership development. First class at LPC Spring 2018.
- Revamp LPC Veterans First website, with calendar of events, 1.2.3 steps for priority reg., benefits, etc. Add an online orientation link for Veterans.
- Develop more programs, esp. career technical programs, utilizing lessons learned with the Engineering Tech program.
- Expand more Veteran cohorts similar to English 1, by piloting in other subjects such as History.
- Develop more internship opportunities with Veterans.
   Create a data base and also offer informational workshops from the various companies offering these internships.
- Develop and implement more workshops in the VRC, esp. with soft skills, resume writing, networking, etc.
- Promote more of the online Zoom resource for future student Veterans and Veterans who attend but live over an hour away. Esp. with things such as request of certification, full Veteran evaluation plans, etc. which

Mark an X next to each area that is addressed in your response. Definitions of terms: https://goo.gl/23jrxt Χ Community Partnerships/Outreach Curriculum\* Χ **Enrollment Management** Χ **External Factors** Facilities,\*\* Supplies and Equipment (Including Software) Financial/Budgetary Human Resources Χ Learning Support LPC Planning Priorities https://goo.gl/LU99m1 Pedagogy Χ Professional Development Χ Services to Students SLO/SAO Process Technology Use \*Curriculum will also be addressed in Part 2 (Curriculum Review). \*\*Facilities will also bestuddressed in Question H.

- before always required the student to be in person. Expanding these online services not just for those who only take online classes.
- Continue to do more and more outreach. Develop more relationships with bases, such as Camp Parks, Camp Pendleton, Travis AF base, etc. More support for outreach materials.
- Strengthen the process in which Veterans who are not meeting academic standards. Midterm grade reports, more follow-ups in person, phone, and Zoom from Veterans counselor and student Veterans mentors
- Intervention strategies to support academic success and completion.
- Strengthen collaboration with DSPS.

G. Long Term Planning (Optional): Please detail any long-term plans for the next 3-5 years. (Only if you have significant plans, such as implementation of a grant project, creation of long-term initiatives including those using restricted funds such as Equity or SSSP, construction and outfitting of a new building).

As mentioned above, with Measure A, and one of its main initiatives promised to the voters, to expand and improve services and programs for Veterans, a larger Veterans Resource Center is needed. The current Veterans resource center is not meeting the increase growth of student Veterans and the increase services and programs provided student Veterans. In addition to the new VRC, funding needs to be allocated by the college to adequately operate the VRC such as paper, ink, and other supplies needed for the VRC. This should not be reliant on only fund raising by the VFP. State funding has been dedicated for these needs, through equity, 3SP, and now dedicated VRC funds. The new VRC will need the following –

- More offices to house the Veterans specialist, Veterans counselor, Veterans coordinator, outside services such as readjustment counseling, financial coaching, mental health counseling, VA and other service providers who utilize the VRC location to provide resources and services to Veterans in the east bay.
- Increase in storage space to house files, supplies, outreach materials, event supplies, etc.
- Large lounge area to also be used as a large workshops/presentation area.
- Larger computer room
- A conference room
- Multiple study/tutoring rooms
- Cart to provide transportation access on campus who have mobility issues. Also used for events and outreach.
- Additional space for events. The VFP has many events with key note speakers which attract many community members as well as on campus students,

	an X next to each area that dressed in your response.	
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faculty, staff, and admin. Often times there is not adequate space, because the main stage in bldg. 4000 is booked. For example all of Nov. nothing was available for the Honoring Veterans Day key note speaker, a former Navy Seal in the theater. A smaller lecture room and also off campus location had to be utilized for this very important Veterans event. Hopefully with Measure A bond the outdoor amphitheater can be redesigned with stage, roof, lighting, sound system, then this venue would be used a lot by the VFP.

#### H. Do you have any facilities needs that are currently unmet? If yes, please describe.

As mention the Veterans First Program has out-grown its second Veterans Resource Center. The VRC at LPC is recognized as a model center both statewide and nationally. Due to the growth of the student Veterans population at LPC, expansion of services and programs offered by VFP, the current center is now inadequate space based on need.

The new VRC will need the following -

- More offices to house the Veterans specialist, Veterans counselor, Veterans coordinator, outside services such as readjustment counseling, financial coaching, mental health counseling, VA and other service providers who utilize the VRC location to provide resources and services to Veterans in the east bay.
- Increase in storage space to house files, supplies, outreach materials, event supplies, etc.
- Large lounge area to also be used as a large workshops/presentation area.
- Larger computer room
- A conference room
- Multiple study/tutoring rooms
- Cart to provide transportation access on campus who have mobility issues. Also used for events and outreach.
- Adequate space on campus for events i.e. amphitheater redesign.

### I. Mission: Explain how your program's plans and accomplishments support the mission of Las Positas College:

Las Positas College is an inclusive learning-centered institution providing educational opportunities and support for completion of students' transfer, degree, basic skills, career-technical, and retraining goals.

Spring 2018, a 2 unit Veterans transition / leadership course will be offered, focusing on many key items of the mission of LPC. It will have lectures and exercises to support progress and success for student Veterans in areas such as deciding and choosing a major, career goals, academic goals – career technical and/or transfer, degree completion, retaining, and how to maximize the many qualities Veterans have – leadership, dedication, career focus, mission oriented, and many other qualities employers want. In addition to the course, expansion from the internships offered for the Engineering Tech program to other paid internships for Veterans in other career fields, such as business, computer science, medical, education, etc. Also expand the area of certificates for high

	emand, great paying careers, that do not require 4-year degree, such as welding, auto, machinismt, etc.	st,
sta	Program-Set Standard (Instructional Programs Only): Did your program meet its program indard for successful course completion?yesno his data can be found here: https://goo.gl/b59nCy)	-set
· If y	our program did not meet your program-set standard, discuss possible reasons and how by affect program planning or resource requests.	v thi
Stu im sei	SLO/SAO Reflection: Describe an example of how your program used course SLO data (Oudent Service Area Outcome (SAO) data or Program SLO data (PSLOs) from last year (2016) pact student learning or achievement. Focus on PSLOs or CSLOs where you have multiple mesters of data to analyze. (Copy the box below if you would like to discuss multiple examples of the program Name or Student Service Area: Veterans First: Operation Gateway (2-	16-1 <u>le</u>
	lay Veterans orientation/workshops)	
T	Text of the CSLO, SAO, or PSLO:SAO	
r p o y a	Describe the quantitative or qualitative results: We have both quantitative and qualitative esults from the pre- and post -surveys given each day for feedback on workshops, presentations, organization of the event, topics, and the over-all satisfaction of Operation Sateway. Some of the quantitative questions are on usage of services after various leptsand services presented, such as do you plan on using the computer lab 81.7%, would ou attend another resume wring seminar, 50.7% yes, 70.4% completed FAFSA application, and over all satisfaction (better than average, 95%). Over-all feed back from student Veterans who attended Op G, presenters of Op G, and community groups invited to the luncheon was very positive. Feedback helps the VFP design and improve future OP G orientations.	
ta fi p tl	Discuss and reflect upon student achievement for this CSLO/PSLO/SAO. Discuss any actions aken so far (and results, if known) and your action plan for the future: Some of the comments rom post survey, will be very helpful in developing the next Op G. More time for Voc Rehab, provide transportation, more time given per workshop so there would be more Q and A time for the presenters at the end of their workshops, and provide day care. The VFP will look into the possibility of funding for transportation and day care, and possibly expand Op G times.	
	What changes in student achievement are evident across the semesters you analyzed? What are some possible explanations for these changes in student achievement? N/A	

# L. Plans for Analysis of SLO/SAO Data: Identify the PSLOs, CSLOs, or SAOs that your program plans on focusing on the upcoming year with subsequent analysis. (Copy the box below as needed.)

Circle One:

CSLO PSLO SAO

Course, Program Name, or Student Service Area:

**Veterans First Program, Operation Gateway** 

Text of CSLO/PSLO/SAO:

Develop and provide more intervention for Operation Gateway students. Will focus on most recent Operation Gateway 2017. Will be tracking GPA and retention. Also, will follow up periodically on services used. Additional focus on first time student Veterans and Veterans with below 2.0 gpa. Will provide one on one counseling sessions.

If you plan on analyzing a PSLO, identify the CSLOs that feed into the PSLO that will need to be assessed. Will review data on retention and GPA. Will also send a mid year and end of year survey to assess student Veterans satisfaction and success.

#### **Section Two: Curriculum Review** (Programs with Courses Only)

The following questions ask you to review your program's curriculum. To see the last outline revision date and revision due date:

- 1. Log in to CurricUNET
- 2. Select "Course Outline Report" under "Reports/Interfaces"3. Select the report as an Excel file or as HTML

#### **Curriculum Updates**

A. Title V Updates: Are any of your courses requiring an update to stay within the courses needing updates below.	e 5 year cycle? List
B. Degree/Certificate Updates: Are any degrees/certificates requiring an update t courses (title, units) or addition/deactivation of courses? List needed changes be	
C. DE Courses/Degrees/Certificates: Detail your department's plans, if any, for addegrees, and/or certificates. For new DE degrees and/or certificates (those offere online), please include a brief rationale as to why the degree/certificate will be of	ed completely

## Section Three: CTE Updates (CTE Programs Only)

A. Labor Market Conditions: Examine your most recent labor market data. Does your program continue to meet a documented labor market demand? Does this program not represent unnecessary duplication of other training programs in the college's service area? (Please note: your labor market data should be current within two years. Contact Vicki Shipman or the current CTE Project Manager for access to data).
B. Advisory Boards: Has your program complied with advisory board recommendations? If not, please explain.
C. Strong Workforce Program Metrics: Utilizing LaunchBoard, review the Strong Workforce Program Metrics. Review the data and then answer the following questions.
(Contact Vicki Shipman or the current CTE Project Manager for help accessing the data).
C1. Does your program meet or exceed the regional and state medians for increased enrollments, completions, and/or transfer since your last program review? If not, what program improvements may be made to increase this metric?
C2. Does your program meet or exceed the regional and state medians for students gaining employme in their field of study? If not, what program improvements may be made to increase this metric?

C3. Does your program meet or exceed the regional and state medians for student employment rates after leaving the college? If not, what program improvements may be made to increase this metric?

C4. Does your program meet or exceed the regional and state medians for increased student earnin and median change in earnings? If not, what program improvements may be made to increase this metric?	gs