



De Anza College
Town Hall, October 9, 2026
Community Conversations Feedback

Our Purpose

- **Today:**
 - Share what we heard at the Community Conversations on Opening Day and make sure we did not miss anything
- **Next Town Hall:**
 - Share how the college is addressing the feedback
 - Discuss how the feedback will be used to inform our new strategic plan

Agenda

- **Panel:** Celebrating What Works, Designing What's Next
- **Feedback:** Community Conversations
- **Next Steps:** Strategic Plan and Action Plans

Panel Discussion:

Celebrating What Works, Designing What's Next

- **Doli Bambhania** - Instructor, Mathematics and MPS Cohort
- **Brian Malone** - Instructor, English & Pride Cohort and Guided Pathways Villages Co-Lead
- **Raquel Perez** - Student Success Specialist, The Hub

- How does your work contribute to **students reaching their educational goals**, given that each student comes to De Anza with different needs?
- What is **one thing you've learned** from your years doing this work that could guide others in supporting students?
- What are you designing that **excites you** about the coming year?

Feedback: Community Conversations

Compiling the Feedback

What we looked at:

- ~ 2,000 post-it notes
- Facilitator notes from 15 rooms
- ~203 engagement activity forms

How we reviewed:

- Humans read through all the comments and documents
- All data entered into Claude (paid subscription), FHDA supported Co-pilot, and Gemini, then checked by humans

Celebrating What Works

- **Basic needs support:** The Hub, Roary's Market, hot meals, food pantry, laptop and hotspot lending, Health Services, student housing
- **Learning communities and cohorts:** LinC, MESA, MPS, Rising Scholars, EOPS, dual enrollment, embedded counselors and tutors
- **Villages and guided pathways:** Village spaces, program maps, ed plans, early registration for students with a plan
- **Celebrating each other:** Dedicated faculty, approachable counselors, welcoming onboarding for new employees, respectful collaboration among governance bodies, student-centered mindset

Celebrating What Works

- **Tutoring and academic support:** Embedded tutors, peer tutoring, Student Success Center, workshops on college and life skills, priority registration
- **Affordability:** OER, ZTC, library textbook reserves, book vouchers, access to technology
- **Transfer, CTE and certificates:** Strong transfer reputation, industry respected CTE, stackable certificates, noncredit ESL, dual enrollment, internships, success beyond transfer
- **Flexibility and inclusion:** Classes in multiple modalities/times of day, affinity groups (Pride, Umoja, LEAD), DSPS, equity mindset

Creating Space

- Stop losing **college presidents**
- Stop **overworking** and micro-managing staff
- Stop yearly **program review** busy work, give time back to departments to pursue student goals
- Stop **implying instructors are responsible** for achievement gaps
- Stop **cancelling low-enrolled required classes** prematurely
- Stop **censoring student perspectives** on multiple political topics
- Stop **poo-pooing ideas** that do not fit into an individual's point of view

Creating Space

- Stop **relying on traditional lectures**
- Stop **cutting or not rehiring** crucial positions
- Eliminate **rigid grading and attendance** policies
- **Simplify forms**, approvals, reporting requirements
- **Reduce barriers** for students
- **Smaller class sizes** to connect with students more
- Need **fewer meetings**, use email to replace meetings
- **Faster curriculum** approval, shorten the cycle

Continuous Improvement

- Increase **counseling** availability, more general and embedded counselors
- **Ensure students can get classes** they need when they need them
- Frontload **support for new students** with higher dropout risk, better outreach to students on academic notice
- Need **transparent resource allocation** and honest communication about the budget
- **Rebuild trust**, community, and shared sense of purpose
- Support for **classified professionals**

Continuous Improvement

- Stop asking for reflection and then **disregarding feedback**
- **Streamlining Processes:** Stop adding initiatives on top of existing responsibilities, simplify curriculum processes, simplifying registration and degree tracking
- **Strengthen dialogue** and alignment between instruction, student services, administration, and CTE programs
- **Expand Villages**
- **Better Wifi and tech** support for students
- More **accurate placement** into math courses

New Opportunities

- **Offer fewer online classes** now that funding no longer depends on enrollment: Much online work is AI-aided, so grades do not reflect learning
- **Increase outreach** to students at risk of not completing their goal, follow up with students who drop all classes/do not persist quarter to quarter
- **Expand local business partnerships**, career-oriented internships, CTE programs, apprenticeships, industry mixers, alumni networking, invite professionals into class
- Provide **cross-departmental training** for faculty on advising and educational plans

New Opportunities

- **Consistent AI policies** for students in each discipline, not left to instructors
- **Building rapport** with each other and friendly handoffs
- Consider **top-heavy administrative salaries as a place to cut** before cutting classes
- **Fewer silos** and more collaboration, closer ties with instruction and student services and with Foothill, shuttles between De Anza and Foothill
- More support for **creating accessible materials**
- Expanding **alumni association** support

New Opportunities

- Explore a **semester system, alternative class formats** (e.g., 1-unit or short-term classes)
- Enhanced **campus events** (e.g., welcome days, town halls)
- Additional **resources for programs** like field trips
- **Free school supplies** for students
- **Opportunities for part-time faculty** to grow into full-time or admin roles
- **Take care of faculty**

New Opportunities

- **Expand early outreach** to high schools/dual enrollment, study abroad programs, adult ed
- **Enhanced psychological safety** for employees
- More **opportunities for belonging** and community building, campus pride
- **Make data more accessible and actionable**, review student metrics, increase student feedback
- **Create clear priorities** and reduce initiatives that compete for resources without demonstrated student impact

Additional Themes

Access to the classes students need

- Stop **cutting classes**
- Stop **cancelling classes** for low enrollment
- **Add sections** in high-demand courses
- Offer **class times that work** for working parents and students
- Publish **reliable two-year schedules**: Some felt the annual schedule was hard to work with while others praised block scheduling
- **Smaller class sizes**
- **Reduce bottlenecks** in major pathways
- **Improve scheduling** coordination across departments

Counseling and Advising Capacity

- Need for **more counselors**
- **Faster appointments**
- **Faculty report fielding registration questions** because students can't see a counselor
- **Increase access to counselors**, specifically in-person counseling
- **Stop turning away students** because they are part of a program

Clear Pathways and Simpler Processes

- **Simplify enrollment and registration**, including international, noncredit and dual enrollment students
- **Fix the website**: Too much information, out-of-date degree requirements on web pages, program maps do not match catalog
- One application for both colleges, **better alignment between colleges** with curriculum and articulation
- **Replace or improve DegreeWorks**, automate award applications, more transparent CPL processes
- **Align course scheduling with program maps**

Reach Students Before They Fall Behind

- **Follow up directly with students** who drop, withdraw or stop out
- **Early alert** in the first weeks
- **Frontload support** for new and at-risk students: Support students on academic notice instead of limiting them
- Text students, **inform students of available supports**
- **Ask students directly**, surveys, focus groups, student town halls
- **Help struggling students find noncredit help** before failure
- Easier process to **get students into learning programs**
- **Academic coaches and peer mentors**

Artificial Intelligence

- **Consistent AI policies** for students
- Single AI information site
- **In-person or proctored exams**, create a testing center
- **Stop pushing AI use**, explore negative effects before districtwide adoption
- **AI-assisted academic planning** with counselors, early alerts
- **AI training** for faculty and students
- **Protect student and faculty privacy** and data security across vendors

And some differing viewpoints

- Fewer online courses

- Slow down on AI, set policies and return to in-person assessment

- Smaller classes

- Move students efficiently to transfer or degree

- Proactive, intrusive outreach, mandatory advising



- More online courses

- Adopt AI for academic planning, early alert and personalized learning

- Raise caps from 40 to 45

- Stop the "2-year" completion talk

- Stop babysitting students

In their own words

"Roary's Market removes financial barriers so students can focus on academics."

"In-class student tutors are great."

"We have a known legacy about being a top transfer school."

Health services is great in providing the free family planning for students thru Family Pact Program.

"The Language Arts Village has been a boon for social engagement and community building."

"Unparalleled services and sense of community keep our students engaged."

"We have a known legacy about being a top transfer school."

"We do a good job supporting students holistically with our services offered on campus."

Thank you for your feedback!

Did we miss anything?

Town Hall Meetings to Solicit Additional Feedback

Fall 2026

- **October 16:** Strategic Plan: Where We Are, Where We're Going
- **November 6:** Program Review and Program Maps

Winter 2027

- **January 15:** Learnings from the Year of Reflection
- **February 5:** Feedback on the Strategic Plan, 2027-2030
- **March 5:** Sharing the Final Program Review Process
- **March 12:** Updates on our Basic Aid Status

Spring 2027

- **April 16:** Final Strategic Plan, 2027-2030
- **May 7:** Program Review Training + Program Maps

Calendar invites forthcoming.

All meetings will be hybrid from 10:30 a.m-12 p.m.