**The Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District (GCCCD)**

**Educational Master Planning: Have we been here before?**

The GCCCD is starting a year-long process to develop an Educational Master Plan that will serve as the blueprint for our future. The Educational Master Plan is a long-range, comprehensive document intended to guide institutional and program development at both the college and district levels. The priorities established in the Educational Master Plan will serve to guide College and District decisions about growth, development and resource allocation.

The GCCCD recently completed a Strategic Plan for 2010-2016 which includes site-specific plans for District Services, Cuyamaca College and Grossmont College. What are the differences between the strategic plan and the Educational Master Plan?

* ***The timeframe***: The strategic plan is shorter-term (six years); the Educational Master Plan covers a term of 15 to 20 years. The strategic plans set goals that may be achieved in a five-year period; the Educational Master Plan establishes district and college goals that will take much longer to achieve.

* ***The scope of the plan***: The strategic plan identifies the specific strategies that each college and District Services will undertake to reach its short-term goals and objectives. The educational master plan is the process by which the colleges and district take a big-picture look at themselves, their roles in the world of education, and their priorities for using their resources to best fulfill their roles.
* ***The implementation of the plan***: The strategic plan identifies specific goals for each site, strategies for achieving those goals, and key performance indicators to measure how effective the strategies were in achieving each goal. The Educational Master Plan sets general directions based on our analysis of the large-scale trends that we believe will affect our students, the colleges and the community. The Educational Master Plan’s goals are longer term, as are the performance indicators to assess their achievement.

The GCCCD will undertake an inclusive process to develop the Educational Master Plan. We’ll start by using a Scan team process to identify important trends and issues that we should consider as part of our environmental scan. Faculty, staff, students and community members will be invited to serve on Scan teams, whose members will identify and submit information sources to be reviewed for the environmental scan. We will finish the process of gathering information by the end of the spring 2011 semester. Over the summer our EMP consultant will write environmental scan and trend reports that summarize our research on the challenges and opportunities we will face in the next twenty years.

We will then dedicate some time during the fall 2011 convocations to discuss the challenges and opportunities we have identified, brainstorm districtwide and college priorities, and recommend long-term goals and objectives. This will be followed by retreats for College and District Planning Councils to use the feedback from these sessions to draft long-term priorities, goals, and objectives for each. The resulting draft priorities, goals and objectives will be sunshined through the collegial review process at each college. Our end product will be a document that summarizes long-range college, district and community trends; identifies shared and site-specific challenges and opportunities; and outlines the long-term vision, goals and strategies for improving our educational programs, student support services and community relationships.