



Noteworthy Practices – Student Diversity

Appendix

2.B. Student Diversity – California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Programs have varying starting points in terms of diversity, but no matter the starting point, strategies are available to attract as diverse a student population as possible and to retain and ensure the success of those students. Key strategies at Cal Poly Pomona include:

- 1) Offering a professional, accredited undergraduate planning degree that provides access to the profession for students who may not anticipate gaining a master's degree. To support that effort, student recruitment efforts include articulation agreements with community colleges, outreach to high schools and specialized academies within those high schools, awareness-building about planning through community engagement in communities of color. In addition, designing the program to serve community college transfer students furthers diversity goals. The key challenge is raising awareness of urban and regional planning among high school and community college students.
- 2) Offering a professional, accredited master's degree in planning in the evening. This provides access to students who lack the means to attend a full-time day program or who have obligations during the day.
- 3) Developing a curriculum that is responsive to the variety of learning styles and lived experience of the student body. Providing opportunity for student inquiry in community contexts. Seeking diversity in the faculty to provide mentors and role models. Infusing diversity issues in technical, community studio, and policy classes.
- 4) Providing advising and mentoring services that support student success and retention for all students, including one-on-one advising by tenure-track faculty, campus and college-level advising and student support services, and university centers to support students of color. In addition, offering special programs to encourage undergraduate students to consider graduate school.

Fostering a culture of inclusion and dialogue among students, in student clubs, departmental governance, and in community-based projects. Developing content and events that support diversity, such as this year's Dale Prize topic on Planning for Community Self Determination and Racial Justice.