

## Multi-Campus College District FAQs

### **What is a multi-campus college district (MCCD)?**

A: Many who study institutional change in higher education consider it to be the next logical step for a college that operates as one college with multiple campuses. Some colleges, in metropolitan areas similar in size to Southern Nevada, and with local funding and governing boards, decided to operate each campus as a separate, autonomous college. At CSN, we believe continuing to operate as one college better serves our students and the communities where we operate because there is a single governing board and most governmental support comes from the State of Nevada. The general approach remains one budget, one accreditation, one curriculum, one board. Several of CSN's peer institutions already operate as MCCDs.

### **I don't really see the difference. Can you explain?**

A: In our current structure, each campus operates under the same centralized authority, attempting to address the needs of various stakeholders through one centralized structure. While this structure works well for two or three campuses and for some operational functions, it can limit others. As CSN adds locations, the legacy model strains to assist communities with varied economic development plans. But most notably, offering a common student experience at varied locations becomes difficult to manage. The MCCD model allows for the decentralization of some functions to flatten the organization, thus increasing responsiveness and flexibility.

### **What does the increased responsiveness and flexibility mean for CSN?**

A: Moving to a multi-campus district model allows us to achieve parity of services on each campus and help each campus grow in response to local needs as a reflection of the community it serves. It also provides for an environment where best practices can be shared more effectively from one campus to another and within each campus. More sharing will be needed and more dialogue is always a good thing.

### **What are some of the specific differences students will see under this model?**

A: They will begin to see the expansion of support services on each campus as we design and implement a common student experience. This will improve their chances for success and create a "home campus" for them, which will be further enhanced by our future student unions. Rather than intermittent advising services, for example, advisors will be assigned to each campus. CSN would commit sufficient staff support to fully engage the common student experience.

### **What does 'common student experience' mean?**

A: It means every student can expect the same collegiate experience at CSN regardless of the campus they select. That experience begins with access and equity, and it continues through re-envisioned programming from connection through completion. Although students can take classes at multiple campuses, they will not have to hop from campus to campus to access critical services, and our faculty and staff have the increased support and latitude they need at their respective campus to better serve students. For a visual reference, [view the student progression table](#).

### **What are some of the specific differences faculty and staff will see under this model?**

A: Faculty and staff should begin to notice many impacts taking shape in 2018:

- A unique feel to each of our campuses. Each campus will have a provost/vice president who will collaborate with campus leaders on budgeting and programming while working to better integrate the campus into their community.
- More opportunities for participation in shared governance through councils and committees with broader representation from all campuses;
- Learning centers attached to campuses that would be responsible for their success and optimal use;
- More faculty in areas where we have extreme need for more general education and entry-level courses;
- More support staff in Student Affairs; and
- Development of designated Centers of Excellence with targeted resources and marketing.

### **What are Centers of Excellence?**

A: Essentially, it's an organizing and marketing umbrella of academic programs and services. Each of our three main campuses already feature specific, location-based programs, such as healthcare at the Charleston campus or automotive at the North Las Vegas campus. Establishing formal Centers around these programs that can be promoted within a specific municipality helps integrate them into the economic strategy of the community while increasing awareness throughout the valley. It is our hope that students traveling to a campus for a specific Center will find that the common student experience makes them feel at home there, regardless of the distance of their commute. [View our list of Centers.](#)

### **What will be the primary role of the campus provost/vice president?**

A: Their main role will be campus advocate. They will continually seek ways to improve student service and the academic offering available at their campus. They will also serve as the chief operational administrator for their campus and will serve on the president's cabinet.

### **When will this model begin to be implemented?**

A: Some changes are already underway. Funding sources have been identified, space allocation plans are created and student service changes are being implemented. There is much work still to be done. We expect full implementation by the end of the 2018-2019 academic year. [View a timeline.](#)

### **Can we accomplish those goals without changing our structure?**

A: It is becoming increasingly difficult to address community and legislative priorities with our current structure. It is not sustainable. We are more likely to receive local municipality and community support if we restructure so that each community feels a kinship with its campus. Note that political leaders will not dictate the courses and services offered on any campus. CSN will still make those decisions.

**What will it cost to implement this model?**

A: Our initial model places FY18 costs at \$3.8M. This figure includes startup costs for new services, particularly in Henderson. This also includes the funds for 30 new faculty and professional positions. [View cost information.](#)

**What will change in terms of course offering?**

A: More classes and student services will be offered at North Las Vegas and, especially, Henderson. Each student should be able to earn a degree or certificate and receive all their student services, including financial aid and advising, at one campus. Not every course will be offered on each campus, but depending upon the chosen program, it should be easier to start and finish on the same campus. Student demand and equipment costs will help dictate what is offered and where.

**Isn't this really just a student services change?**

A: The move to a common student experience is a major component of the district model implementation, but there is much more to it. From operational efficiency and campus flexibility to community accountability and workforce development, the move to the district model will position CSN for the future. A fourth campus in the northwest is underdevelopment, and there is need for a CSN presence in burgeoning southwest part of the valley. The new model can accommodate these additional locations for CSN.

**What does this mean in terms of our accreditation?**

A: CSN is obliged to notify the Northwest Commission of College and Universities about the change, its resource base and impact on learning and the student experience. The College is in the process of preparing the notification now. But overall, the change will not change our regional accreditation.

**Will the role of the dean or chair change?**

A: They will continue in the same academic structure in which they currently serve. The model, however, may stimulate college-wide discussions on the role of deans, on improving communication and coordination of decision-making, and on research, development and assessment of programs and services.

**Who will determine scheduling of classes for each campus?**

A: Department chairs will continue to develop their class schedules in the same way as before. They will work with their leadership and the provost/vice president to ensure a full complement of general education and entry-level curriculum is available and designated space allocation plans are adequate. Further restructuring may be needed in the future and committees may be formed to help ensure adequate representation from all involved parties.

**Will we be divided by campus?**

A: No. We are all still CSN employees, not employees of one campus or another. We will continue to work together across the "district" to help everyone succeed. This is not a competition between campuses.

**How do our learning centers and future campuses fit in to this model?**

A: Each of the three main campuses will act as a 'hub' for learning centers and future site development. For instance, the Green Valley Center and future south and southwest development will be aligned with the Henderson campus. [View the breakdown.](#)

**Which services/offices will be centralized and which decentralized?**

A: While some of these decisions are still being made, many decisions are already apparent. Offices such as financial services and human resources will remain centralized. Some areas will see a mix, such as student affairs. For example, it makes sense for services such as financial aid and the VETS Center to have centralized operations so that students are treated uniformly, but there may be a need for them to have representatives on each campus. Other areas such as student life and campus security will be decentralized. Decentralization may be needed in other areas as we move toward full implementation of the MCCD model. [View a partial list by functional area.](#)

**What's the best way for me to help?**

A: Just continue to deliver the same great service every day. As always, our students are our priority. We will experience growing pains as we work toward the final implementation date and it will be up to all of us to foster this new organizational culture.

**Where can I learn more and ask questions?**

A: We will continually update our website at [www.csn.edu/experience](http://www.csn.edu/experience). Please visit there often.