Board/Organization-Related

- The RP Group Board of Directors nominations closed on April 29. Elections are taking place May 6–22 for open positions starting in July 2024! If your college/district is an institutional member with The RP Group during the 2023–24 academic calendar year, election ballots will be shared with IRPE office leads to cast the vote for each member institution. Each institutional vote should be cast by the office lead after consultation with all IRPE office staff. Please reference the Regional Board Representation Model accordion on the Board of Directors page on our website to determine whether your college/district is included in one of the regions with a Board member up for election.
  - Central Los Angeles (3-year term)
  - Central Valley North (2-year term)
  - Inland Empire (2-year term)
  - Orange County (2-year term)
  - South Bay (2-year term)

- We held our Annual Community and Membership Engagement Meeting on May 2. Thanks to everyone who was able to join us!
  - We discussed the implications of Vision Aligned Reporting (VAR) on IRPE offices and gave participants an opportunity to share their questions, concerns, what they are excited about, and what support they think they will need through this padlet. Please feel free to add your thoughts to the padlet through May 31.

- The RP Group would like to thank Erik Cooper and Allison Beer from the Office of Innovation, Data, Evidence, and Analytics (IDEA) at the Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO) for providing a CCCCO update at this year’s RP Conference. Their session addressed Vision 2030 and how it is shaping CCCCO projects, provided updates on MIS data elements and dashboard releases, and shared information about the CCCCO’s data and research priorities and projects.
Research and Evaluation

- New statewide project commencing!
  - The **CCC Online Education Evaluation** will be conducted to understand the impact of online course offerings on short- and long-term student and institutional outcomes. This study will be conducted between April 2024 and March 2025 and will include statewide quantitative analyses of student outcomes, online course offerings, and multiple stakeholder surveys (e.g., faculty, distance education coordinators, and students) in fall 2024. More details will be forthcoming on how IRPE offices can support the statewide survey efforts.

Professional Development

- Thank you to those of you who attended **RP Conference 2024**! It was so wonderful to see you there.
  - Here are this year’s conference metrics:
    - **250** registrants
      - Research Analysts/Specialists are the most represented position with **53%** of our attendees
      - Deans, Directors, and Vice Presidents make up **32%** of attendees
      - The remaining **15%** of attendees are faculty, program coordinators, counselors, IT professionals, consultants, career education personnel, students, and campus executives
    - **30** breakout presentations + **6** dashboard sessions
    - **66** presenters, which includes **3** students (**26%** of attendees)
    - **65** attending the conference for the first time
    - **86** colleges and districts represented
    - **10** other higher education institutions and companies related to student success products or services.

- **IRPE Summer-to-Summer Institute 2024–25 registration is open!**
  - The IRPE Summer-to-Summer Institute 2024–25 is a professional development opportunity designed to validate, engage, and build upon the diverse experiences and backgrounds IRPE professionals bring to the field.
○ The Institute provides an immersive 10-month, three-path learning experience for Newcomers, Seasoned Professionals, and Veterans, and will leverage interactive breakout sessions, panel presentations, scenario-based learning experiences, and Canvas learning modules.

○ The Institute will include two in-person “bookend” convenings at the Sheraton Fairplex Suites & Conference Center in Pomona, CA (August 6–8, 2024 and June 3–4, 2025), with monthly virtual learning sessions scheduled in between.

○ This inclusive learning experience for IRPE professionals focuses on equity-minded leadership and social justice for California’s community colleges (CCC). Within this context, participants will identify their goals and learning priorities at the onset of the Institute to help unpack how these goals can positively impact student equity and success.

○ If you are looking to learn about critical issues impacting your work; connect and build community with IRPE colleagues from across the state who share common goals and interests; and gain tools, resources, strategies, and a peer support network to advance student equity and social justice across the CCC system, the IRPE Summer-to-Summer Institute 2024–25 is for you.

○ Learn more and register for IRPE Summer-to-Summer Institute 2024–25!

• Registration for Strengthening Student Success Conference 2024 (#SSSC24) is open!

○ #SSSC24 will be held at the Hyatt Regency Orange County in Garden Grove, CA, October 9–10, with optional post-conference workshops on October 11.

○ The annual Strengthening Student Success Conference provides a unique opportunity for a wide cross-section of California community college professionals—including faculty, deans, student services staff, IRPE, and more—to engage with each other on strategies for increasing equitable outcomes, institutional effectiveness, leadership capacity, and other important topics. The conference has been designed to promote interactive learning, build connections with peers, and provide opportunities to hear perspectives from other disciplines through interactive sessions, informative briefings, inspirational plenary presentations, and innovative opportunities to dig into pressing community college issues.

○ This year’s conference theme—Teaching and Learning at a Crossroads: Where Do We Go From Here?—encourages us to be open to new directions and opportunities. It reminds us of longstanding inequities in students’ outcomes and inspires us to chart new paths to create necessary changes to meet our students’ needs. The new landscape for teaching and learning allows for rigor and accountability with a strong dose of compassion and grace as survival tools to
meet the challenges along the way. Let’s begin a new journey with love for our students and extend compassion as we walk alongside them.

○ Learn more and register for #SSSC24!

• May Equity Research & Social Justice Collaborative
  ○ Our session on May 15 from 9:30 to 11:00 am is the second of a three-part series facilitated by Tanika Byrd, Pam Chao, and Jennifer Laflam. In the first session, we made connections between institutional effectiveness and community building as we move our institutions toward equity. In this second session, we will explore how to identify deficit-mindedness in leadership and research and look at ways to transform it so our work is rooted in valuing students.
  ○ Here’s a link to register for this free Equity Research and Social Justice Collaborative event.

• May PIER to PIER
  ○ Our PIER to PIER session on May 23 from 12:00 to 1:00 pm will focus on sharing and discussing recent RP Group planning resources designed to support colleges and districts in their efforts related to foundational planning principles, scenario planning, and equity, diversity, and inclusion planning and assessment.
  ○ Here’s a link to register for this free PIER to PIER event.

Stay Connected with The RP Group!

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○ Follow us on social media on Facebook, X (formerly known as Twitter), YouTube, and Flickr
○ Visit The RP Group website!