

TRENDS AND ISSUES

[Revised December 3, 2002]

Population

- Aging community (e.g., baby boomers aging, more senior citizens) impacts what classes/services are desired
- Increasing number of Latinos and other ethnic groups

Economic

- Costs continue to rise (e.g., tuition, cost of living)
- Number of family wage jobs is decreasing as we shift from an industrial to service economy
- PERS has an increasing impact on budgets
- Decreasing opportunities for single/divorced mothers to continue their education due to cuts in child care or changes in regulations which penalize them for pursuing studies

Employment

- Increasing trend toward more technology leaves much of the workforce under-trained technologically
- Increasingly important to examine the role of ethnic people in the world of business
- Difficult to find qualified bi-lingual, bi-cultural workers (especially in health care fields)
- People have many different jobs or careers throughout their life
- How can we keep up with workplace changes in order to help people remain employable? How can we get ahead of changes? How can we help people can multiple skills so as to remain employable?

Technological

- Increasing rate of obsolescence in knowledge and skills
- Rapid growth of Internet keeps people at home and erodes social intercourse. It changes the nature of social dialogue. What's the impact on social change? How can we intervene/help?
- Great benefits of sharing information and interacting with people around the world
- Able to access education when unable to travel to a facility/campus

Public Support

- Decreasing public support for public institutions (especially in funding)

Programmatic

- Unfilled need for health care workers (e.g., aging population is living longer, leading vibrant lives to the end of life)
- Community needs a clearinghouse for information on issues related to aging and end-of-life issues
- What will be the impact of CIM/CAM measures at the high school level on community college students?
- People need to become more knowledgeable on dealing with financial needs later in life (i.e., retirement funding is changing) and people need to become more financially savvy

General Perceptions

- Lack of differentiation between LCC and UO; to the casual observer the institutions look the same
- People no longer view schools as a place to go to (i.e., not a central place in the community)
- People are less willing to suborn their personal interests for the good of the community. How can we account for those who can't care for themselves if we are only caring for our own self?
- Lane needs to connect to the community—to be involved in it and have the community involved in Lane—in order for financial support to flow
- Increasing numbers of students of color attend a two-year institution first, before transferring to a four-year college or university. They come for skill development and because it is an easier, less threatening transition