

Mt. San Antonio College

Synopsis of the ADA Transition Plan

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires a periodic review of facilities, policies, procedures and practices through the lens of accessibility for individuals with disabilities. Typically, this review is conducted by an independent consultant and results in a document which includes identification of issues and areas of non-compliance with relevant disability laws and statutes, recommendations for improvement, and related costs where applicable. The last comprehensive review of Mt. San Antonio College was conducted in 1994.

In order to remain compliant with ADA and the fact that many aspects of Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. SAC) have changed significantly over the last 16 years, Mt. SAC entered into an agreement with Sally Swanson Architects (SSA) to conduct a full evaluation of facilities, policies, procedures, practices, and college websites. SSA conducted a full evaluation of the facilities and paths of travel and contracted with other agencies to conduct the self evaluation of policies, practices and procedures; and the website evaluation. The result of this investigation is a document divided into four chapters: Executive Summary (8 pages); Self Evaluation of Policies, Procedures, and Practices (26 pages); Assessment of Campus Accessibility Elements, Paths of Travel & Building Interiors (2,670 pages); Section 508 Compliance Evaluation (143 pages); Cover pages (8). The entire document is 2,855 pages.

The first chapter is the “Self Evaluation of Policies, Procedures and Practices.” In order to conduct this portion of the Plan, a questionnaire was distributed to the following teams: Student Services, Instruction and Human Resources. Additional responses were requested from some individuals in the Administrative Services Team: namely the Director of Public Safety, Director of Risk Management and Director of Purchasing. Based on the answers received, recommendations for improvement were developed. The section includes a spreadsheet for the College to use to document its progress relative to the recommended improvements. Some of the major recommended improvements include: System be developed to address ADA matters for the entire campus, training on the disability civil rights law and actions, and review and revision of existing policies and procedures.

The next section of the Plan is “Assessment of Campus Accessibility Elements, Paths of Travel & Building Interiors.” Every single campus building along with its corresponding path of travel on campus was surveyed. The facilities plan for improvements total \$15,013,163.75. Approximately half of the estimated cost is to improve paths of travel, some of which would belong to the City of Walnut. The report is divided into sections by building. Each building section has a list of barriers identified, priority, severity and cost to mitigate the barrier. The plan is very detailed and inclusive of every possible facilities access issue; from replacing and constructing new ramps to replacing door knobs.

The last section of the Plan is called “Section 508 Compliance--Evaluation of College’s Information Technology.” “Section 508” of the Rehabilitation Act refers to a set of federal laws and regulations standards enacted in 1998 to eliminate barriers in information technology. This chapter includes a comprehensive review and detailed listing of 378 Mt. SAC websites and accessibility issues therein; including mtsac.edu, sub domains of mtsac.edu, areas of the website accessible only to students or employees of the college, and third party web-based applications used on the College’s website. Additionally noted are recommendations, the relative importance of the issue, and degree of difficulty to fix the issue.

Task: Review the chapter on Self Evaluation of Policies, Procedures and Practices and provide feedback to Grace Hanson no later than **May 15, 2010**.

22 April 2010