

# RP Group Strategic Plan 2019-2024

The Research and Planning Group for California Community Colleges (RP Group) embarked on a strategic planning process in mid-2018, guided by a Strategic Planning Taskforce comprised of a mix of RP Group board members and staff.

## MISSION

As the representative organization for Institutional Research, Planning, and Effectiveness (IRPE) professionals in the California Community Colleges (CCC) system, the RP Group strengthens the ability of CCC to discover and undertake high-quality research, planning, and assessments that improve evidence-based decision-making, institutional effectiveness, and success for all students.

## VISION

The RP Group strives to build a community college culture that views planning, evidence-based decision-making, and institutional effectiveness as integral, collaborative strategies that work together to promote student success, increase equitable outcomes, improve college operations, and inform policymakers.

## CORE VALUES

Quality • Authenticity • Equity • Collaboration

## DUAL ROLE

The primary role of the RP Group is to represent IRPE professionals within our California Community College (CCC) system. It also serves leaders and institutions in the CCC system through professional and leadership development and through research.

Members serve as leaders within the organization including as board members, participate in Regional Research Groups, and support the RP Group in identifying, prioritizing, and conducting research and professional development offerings that, ultimately, drive institutional effectiveness and student success.

The RP Group's research and professional development further the interests of its members by supporting data-informed decision-making throughout the system, elevating the role of the researcher, and nurturing a culture of evidence and inquiry.



# STRATEGY

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The strategic planning process centered around the identification of a single and purposeful strategy, derived from purposeful questions, in-depth conversations, and community feedback.

The strategy statement is as follows:

**The RP Group engages and represents California Community Colleges IRPE professionals to empower them to facilitate data-informed decision-making and be agents of institutional change focused on advancing student success and equity at individual colleges and systemwide.**

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

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- **Draw on the expertise of IRPE professionals to develop and inform policy and practice.**
  - Elevate research and effective practices from the colleges in order to better support colleges in the field.
  - Promote/share our work with various organizations, policymakers, and publications to strengthen our position as a thought leader in our field.
  - Clarify board member responsibilities in relation to representing members and advocating for IRPE professionals.
- **Assist professionals in understanding data to support decision-making and foster a culture of inquiry.**
  - Provide a coherent, cohesive, and easy-to-navigate professional development program that is designed around meeting the specific needs of IRPE professionals.
  - Increase access to professional learning across the CCC system in order to expand knowledge sharing beyond our in-person PD events.
  - Expand the reach of the Leading from the Middle program to increase access and/or deepen engagement.
- **Build community among researchers and planners.**
  - Create and implement a membership model that focuses more explicitly on the needs of the IRPE community in alignment with our strategy statement.
  - Strengthen bi-directional communication with the membership and IRPE field.
- **Conduct and disseminate research and information.**
  - Develop a research agenda that identifies the organization's research priorities such that they align with the current needs in the CCC system and helps guide and inform resource development efforts.
  - Engage in long-term, customized technical assistance projects with colleges that include plans of action and meaningful, clear outcomes.

## THE PATH FORWARD

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This strategic plan is intended to be a "living document." Not unlike the development of this plan, ongoing management and oversight of the organization will involve both board and staff partnering to review outcomes and adjust the path forward accordingly.