

**College of Science  
California State University Stanislaus  
Strategic Plan 2013-2018**

California State University, Stanislaus is an exceptional public university with a student-friendly faculty, and a commitment to excellence in education. CSU Stanislaus offers baccalaureate degrees in the liberal arts, sciences, business, and education, as well as teaching credentials, master's degree programs, and other professional studies.

Founded in 2012, the College of Science is headquartered in the state-of-the-art Nora and Hashem Naraghi Hall of Science. The College combines the former College of Natural Sciences with the School of Nursing, the Department of Psychology, and the Child Development Program. The College encourages students to explore their potential and to prepare for challenging careers or to pursue advanced studies. Graduates will possess the analytical, problem-solving, and technical skills that are critical to success in evaluating, communicating and adding to the body of knowledge in their chosen field, and contributing to the well-being of their communities.

The College of Science at California State University, Stanislaus, 2013-2018 strategic plan builds on our commitment to student support, high quality programs, faculty and staff development, and community interaction.

**VISION**

Our vision is to be a center for education and scholarship in science, health, human services, mathematics and technology in California's Central Valley. The College provides the state and region with outstanding scientific, technical, service and health professionals, and also responds to the national and regional need for service leading to the sustainability of our community and environmental resources.

**MISSION**

The College of Science is an intellectual community dedicated to providing students and faculty with the scientific, mathematical, health and human service, and technological capacity to contribute to their disciplines and succeed in their career and academic pursuits. The faculty and staff seek to educate students through quality instruction, experiential learning, research experience, community engagement, and effective advising. The College seeks to provide faculty with the environment and resources to support research, scholarly and creative endeavors in the context of the mission of the university as a learning-centered institution. The College strives to provide a collegial and supportive working environment and career development opportunities for its staff. Graduates in the academic disciplines within the College of Science will possess the analytical, problem-solving, communication, and technical skills, as well as the scientific literacy that are critical to their success in contributing to their field and to the education and well-being of their communities.

**CORE VALUES (in service of creating and maintaining high quality programs)**

- Student Support
- Excellence in Teaching Effectiveness
- Leadership Development
- Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities
- Faculty and Staff Development
- Community Engagement

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**GOAL 1**

- Student Support

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
Provide high quality instruction in science, mathematics, health and human services, and technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide opportunities for students to have one-on-one interaction with faculty</li> <li>• Identify core gateway courses for students, with majors in our college, and develop strategies to enhance student retention and success</li> <li>• Seek discipline-based accreditation, when appropriate</li> <li>• Program evaluations will be driven by the Academic Program Review process and accreditation standards (where applicable)</li> </ul>
Provide students access to high quality and experiential-based education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase student participation in classroom- based experiential learning activities</li> <li>• Create more opportunities for students to participate in research</li> <li>• Provide more opportunities for student internships, practicum and laboratory experience</li> </ul>
Encourage student interaction outside of the classroom through seminars, club activities, internships, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist departments and programs in the formation and support of science, health and human services, and technology clubs</li> <li>• Provide incentives for student memberships in the science, health, human services and technology clubs</li> </ul>
Explore mechanisms for providing financial support for students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore grant opportunities for student scholarships</li> <li>• Seek endowed scholarships</li> </ul>
Provide students with effective academic and career advising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require majors to meet with a faculty member in their department for academic advising each semester they are enrolled or be advised through a program designed by their major department.</li> <li>• Develop technological solutions to facilitate and streamline academic advising and student support.</li> <li>• Develop College and Department level communication systems for disseminating effective career and academic advising strategies</li> </ul>

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**GOAL 2**

- Excellence in Teaching Effectiveness

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
In all course offerings, require students to utilize critical thinking skills and to demonstrate personal responsibility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist faculty members in the development of effective teaching pedagogies.</li> <li>• Provide workshops/seminars to share effective teaching pedagogies within departments and/or among college level.</li> </ul>
Increase the number of course offerings where students work cooperatively in small groups to achieve project-based goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase scholarship opportunities for faculty members to develop research/inquiry based curriculum.</li> <li>• Support faculty members who engage in individual study with stipends and/or WTU credits.</li> </ul>
Maintain appropriate student-faculty ratios.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secure class offerings for upper level major classes with small enrollments.</li> <li>• Set appropriate class size limits among departments and obtain support from administrators to offer classes with appropriate student-faculty ratios.</li> </ul>
Provide opportunities for faculty to master new curriculum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide resources for faculty members to develop new courses in their areas of interest and expertise.</li> <li>• Allow faculty members to have lower enrollments in new courses.</li> </ul>
Encourage and support faculty to be at the forefront with regard to usage of novel/technological teaching tools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase scholarship opportunities for faculty members to develop innovative teaching tools</li> <li>• Sponsor workshops and seminars for up-to-date teaching methods for faculty.</li> <li>• The College will endeavor to provide and maintain the technology and equipment to enable effective teaching.</li> </ul>
Use tools that accurately measure teaching effectiveness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support departments in the development of their own tools for measuring teaching effectiveness.</li> <li>• Provide administrative support for department-level teaching evaluation tools applicable to the RPT purposes.</li> </ul>
Increase opportunities for learning among disabled students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for university-wide support and resources for disabled student's academic success.</li> </ul>

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**GOAL 3**

- Leadership Development

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
Continually evaluate the effectiveness and viability of existing programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct formalized internal evaluations that include current institutional reports as well as alumni data.</li> <li>• Promote formalized external evaluations that involve input from external advisory committees.</li> </ul>
Create advisory committees in each discipline to ensure the currency and relevancy of programs offered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase participation of outside professionals on program advisory boards.</li> </ul>
Increase opportunities for experiential learning through interaction with the local community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a database of experiential learning projects through consultation with local and regional businesses, PreK-12 schools, health and human service organizations, agencies, and non-profit organizations.</li> </ul>
Increase opportunities for experiential learning through interaction with national and international communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support cultural competency in the learning environment.</li> <li>• Provide learning opportunities to increase awareness of the global community.</li> <li>• Promote and expand opportunities for international experiences for faculty and students in their disciplines.</li> </ul>
Develop leadership in the community and among students, faculty and staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand support for leadership development for students, faculty and staff.</li> <li>• Support, enhance and recognize service and civic-engagement by faculty, staff and students in the community.</li> </ul>

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**GOAL 4**

- Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities (RSCA)

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
Generate high quality research, scholarship, and creative activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide the release time necessary to pursue RSCA.</li> <li>• Provide seed money for new projects.</li> <li>• Provide opportunities and support for faculty collaborating with internal and external colleagues.</li> <li>• Publish RSCA in peer reviewed journals, conference proceedings, and other appropriate forums.</li> </ul>
Obtain external support for RSCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide time and assistance for grant writing.</li> <li>• Provide time and assistance for seeking other sources of external support.</li> </ul>
Maintain currency in areas of scientific expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support faculty attendance and participation in appropriate conferences.</li> <li>• Support faculty to serve as a resource providing technical information, consultation, and expert advice as appropriate.</li> </ul>
Promote and support scholarship of faculty and students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide release time, equipment and travel funds to support undergraduate and graduate student research</li> <li>• Recognize faculty sponsored undergraduate and graduate student research as a significant research or scholarly activity</li> <li>• Provide support to create collaborative multi-disciplinary RSCA opportunities</li> </ul>

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**GOAL 5**

- Faculty and Staff Development

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
Provide College-specific training in multiple course delivery formats on a regular basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer a recurring set of workshops.</li> <li>• Offer college-wide colloquia focused on course delivery formats.</li> </ul>
Provide regular opportunities for discussion of pedagogical approaches to teaching in the science, health and human services, and technology fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold College-wide colloquia focused on sharing current pedagogical practices.</li> <li>• Hold regular pedagogical workshops led by a nationally known educators and professionals.</li> </ul>
Provide training for new and longer-term staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide dedicated time for staff training.</li> <li>• Identify college-specific needs for staff training.</li> </ul>
Recruit and retain diverse high quality faculty and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publicize information regarding professional growth opportunities and accomplishments for staff and faculty.</li> </ul>
Strengthen interdisciplinary ties in the College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support team teaching opportunities across departments.</li> <li>• Increase the number of interdisciplinary course proposals.</li> </ul>
Promote and support scholarship of faculty and students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mentor and support faculty members to conduct their scholarly activities.</li> <li>• Support faculty/student undergraduate and graduate research opportunities.</li> </ul>
Recognize outstanding faculty and staff achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide forums to publicly recognize Faculty and Staff achievements.</li> </ul>

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**GOAL 6**

- Community Engagement

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
Increase and maintain interaction with area schools and service agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide opportunities for preK-12 students to visit and interact with faculty and students.</li> <li>• Support collaborative interactions between faculty, students, and preK-12 teachers, program directors and administrators.</li> <li>• Provide organized opportunities and time for faculty and students to visit area schools and service agencies.</li> </ul>
Increase and maintain interaction with 2-year colleges and other higher education institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage Inter-institutional interaction at the faculty and student levels.</li> <li>• Promote alliances and interactions with organizations involved with the AB 1440 Star Act program and AB 1295 Nursing Degree Pathways.</li> </ul>
Increase and maintain interaction with local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide opportunities for community visits to the College.</li> <li>• Provide support to continue and increase intellectual interactions with community members.</li> <li>• Provide service learning opportunities.</li> </ul>
Cultivate relationships with alumni, businesses, non-profits, non-governmental organizations, government, health care institutions, and industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase communication with College alumni.</li> <li>• Support and facilitate interactions between the College and businesses, non-profits, non-governmental organizations, government, health care institutions, and industries with direct faculty and student involvement</li> </ul>