

## **Valencia Community College Strategic Budget Initiative Statement of Purpose and Definition**

Each year Valencia plans to allocate a portion of its budget to Strategic Budget Initiatives (SBI). Strategic Budget Initiatives should be linked explicitly to Valencia's Strategic Learning Plan.

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of SBI funds is to provide support for promising innovations that may be scaled to reach large numbers of students. The intent is to move innovations beyond the original trial to "venture capital" investment by the college. At the conclusion of an SBI, the college would expect to have the evidence needed to make a decision regarding full institutionalization of the effort.

In keeping with the purpose, Strategic Budget Initiative proposals should have already been tested on a smaller scale (e.g., either on a volunteer basis, with other college dollars, or through grant support) and should provide evidence that the pilot project was effective. The proposals should be one-year projects with the opportunity to reapply for extensions beyond one year. Therefore, a prerequisite for any SBI proposal to be considered is that it has been pilot-tested on a volunteer basis, with grant funds, and/or with other college dollars. The pilot testing need not have taken place at Valencia, but the proposal should provide convincing evidence that the effort will have significant impact on learning and be scalable to large number of learners.

Therefore, in order to be considered for funding as a Strategic Budget Initiative, a proposed project must:

- be likely to advance progress on one, or more, of the goals of Valencia's Strategic Learning Plan
- align clearly with one or more of the high priority action items identified through the annual update of the Strategic Learning Plan
- show evidence that the project is scalable to a larger college population (department, campus, or college-wide), and
- show evidence of success of the prior trial project.

Strategic Budget Initiatives may be considered for full institutionalization at the conclusion of the project period. However, no long-term personnel or other budget commitments should be assumed due to receipt of SBI funds. That means that any personnel or other budget line items paid for with SBI funds are temporary until such time that the college chooses, based on the evidence, to institutionalize the project.

At the conclusion of the SBI project period, the funding for the project may be submitted as a part of the regular annual college budget process and would compete for funding with existing priorities and commitments.

The SBI process and funding serves a special and specific purpose at Valencia – to bring to a larger scale a promising and proven innovation that is ready for serious consideration as a long term addition to the college's programs and services. It is not intended to be used for routine expansion of existing services; those requests should be submitted as part of the regular college budget process. The SBI process is not intended to be used for equipment refresh or for routine staffing requests, both of which are considered during the annual staffing and budgeting process, upon recommendation of the Executive Council.