BCC Academic Senate President, BCC Curriculum Committee Chair, and Chair of the Department Chairs:

The General Education Subcommittee (of CIPD) is writing to inform you of a proposal to remove the Computer Literacy requirement from the PCCD General Education Requirements for an Associate Degree.

The Subcommittee made this recommendation to CIPD as part of its report in April 2019.  At that time, although the committee unanimously recommended removing the requirement, we also felt it was important that our recommendation be reviewed by others, particularly shared governance committees, and proposed a one year review period with final action to be taken at the next Subcommittee meeting in April 2020.

Unfortunately, a rigorous review of our proposal didn't occur during the 2019-2020 academic year.   As a result, at this year's meeting on April 6, 2020, the Subcommittee still felt it appropriate to remove the Computer Literacy requirement but again felt that a review by others should occur.  We again proposed a one-year review and took action to propel this by requesting that the item be placed on the agenda of the DAS meeting of April 21, 2020.

The item was on the agenda of that meeting and, after lengthy discussion, the DAS determined that the proposal needed review by PCCD College Academic Senates, Curriculum Committees, and Department Chairs.

As a result, we're bringing this proposal to you for discussion at your next scheduled meeting, if possible.  To inform discussion by committee members, here is the proposal and rationale we offered in our April 2019 report:

**The Subcommittee recommends that the Computer Literacy General Education requirement (AP 4100, Section II.D.3) be removed entirely.  This issue has been discussed in Counseling Departments at multiple PCCD Colleges where there is nearly unanimous support.  Counselors are in an ideal position to know pressing student concerns since they are the constant point of contact for students when creating education plans, completing degree and certificate petitions, and providing academic, career, and personal counseling.   Key points in this recommendation are:**

* **Many, if not most PCCD students are very tech savvy, given the ubiquitous requirements for computer literacy required to navigate the internet, use smart phone applications, and run an increasing number of electronic devices in everyday life (video games, virtual assistants, GPS, baby monitors, and the like).**
* **A computer literacy requirement often places an unnecessary hurdle for students who struggle to meet this requirement because, at at least one PCCD College, these courses (or proficiency examinations) are not offered regularly enough.**
* **Students who want to take a computer literacy class, particularly those who are returning, who were formerly incarcerated, or those served through categorical programs, can certainly elect to do so.  We are not proposing eliminating these courses or proficiency examinations, we are simply proposing eliminating the computer literacy general education requirement for all students completing a local associate degree.**

**We urge your committee to consider our proposal and to respond with comments and a recommendation for or against, including a summary of your reasons.  Our goal is to complete a broad and rigorous review of our proposal by mid-October 2020 so that your input can be sent to DAS for their action before the end of Fall 2o2o.**

If you have questions or want additional information as you consider our proposal, please contact any or all of the GE Subcommittee members:

Joseph Bielanski (Berkeley City College)

Laura Bollentino (Laney College)

Amany Elmasry (Curriculum & Systems, District Office)

Steve Pantell (Merritt College)

Vinh Phan (College of Alameda)

Charlotte Smith (Admissions & Records)

Dominique Taylor (Admissions & Records)

Thank you for your prompt action and consideration,

PCCD General Education Subcommittee