### Evaluation of Projects Funded by the Fund for Instructional Improvement, Fiscal Year 1978-79 Through 1985-86

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUNDING CATEGORY &amp; AWARD</th>
<th>ELIGIBLE PROGRAM</th>
<th>PROJECT CATEGORY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grant = $50,000</td>
<td>E --- Improvement of Trad. Instruction Prog</td>
<td>Evaluation Model</td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>PROJECT PRODUCT</th>
<th>PROJECT TOPIC #1</th>
<th>PROJECT TOPIC #2</th>
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<td>Resource Materials</td>
<td>Institutional Research</td>
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<td>Inter-Disciplinary</td>
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### PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION

Since its inception, the Fund for Instructional Improvement has awarded over $5.7 million in grants to 615 projects within California Community Colleges under the provisions of AB 1173, 1978 (Vasconcellos, Chapter 714, Statutes of 1977). Although each project is required to provide the Fund with a midway and a final report, there has never been a comprehensive external evaluation of the success of all the projects with respect to the basic goals for which the Fund was established. This project seeks to provide the Fund staff and the system with valuative information useful in structuring future operations of the Fund.
Evaluation of Projects Funded by the fund for Instructional Improvement Fiscal Year 1978-79 through 1985-86

[NO ABSTRACT ACCOMPANIES THIS DOCUMENT.]
Evaluation of Projects Funded by the fund for Instructional Improvement Fiscal Year 1978-79 through 1985-86

1. Specific Educational Program Being Addressed

Educational Program/Service Addressed

As a qualitative evaluation of the success and impact of all projects funded through the California Community College Fund for Instructional Improvement (FII), this proposed project will indirectly impact on all future FII projects funded to address the specific programs/services identified in Education Code, Section 84381.

The proposed project, which should be considered a "new development," will be conducted singly by Solano Community College (SCC). Although no sources of funding other than the FII will be used, SCC will provide specific in-kind support for the project's operation (see "Proposed Budget" below).
2. Specific Problems Being Addressed

Specific Problem Addressed

Since its inception, the FII has awarded over $5.7 million in grants to 615 projects and nearly $1 million in loans to some twenty other projects within California community colleges under the provisions of AB 1173 (Vasconcellos, Chap. 714, Statues of 1977). Although each project is required to provide the Fund with midway and final progress reports, there has never been a comprehensive external evaluation of the success of all projects with respect to the basic goals for which the FII was established. This proposed project seeks to provide the FII staff with information useful in structuring future operations of the Fund.

There are several questions of interest which this proposed project seeks to answer. The principal question upon which this study will focus is:

1) Are funded projects "successful" with respect to the goals of the Fund as stipulated in the enabling legislation and articulated through management policy statements and guidelines?

In order to identify factors which may have a differential effect on the success of Fund projects the study will also take up three secondary or subordinate questions:

2) What is the interrelation between project funding levels and project success?

3) What is the interrelation between project categories (cf. Ed. Code, Sec. 84381) and project success?

4) Is there any difference in project success between those projects completed within the stipulated timeframe and those requiring an extension?
3. Population To Be Served

Population Served

Due to the nature of the proposed project, no direct service or benefit will accrue to faculty members or students. However, the findings will indirectly impact all faculty planning projects for submission to the FII as well as the staff administration of the FII.
4. Objectives

Objectives

The goal of this proposed project is to develop a formal written evaluation report on the success of FII projects. To achieve this goal, the following objectives must be met:

1) Obtain data on 100% of sample projects, representing a minimum of 10% of all projects funded by the FII. (Deadline: 15 OCT 86)

2) Present a preliminary report to FII planning staff. (Deadline: 1 NOV 86)

3) Complete and distribute the final report (Deadline: 1 JAN 87)
5. Workplan Narrative

Activities

Working with the data base which exists in the FII offices, a random sample of projects will be selected for investigation. The sample will be stratified on the basis of the fiscal year during which the grant was initiated. Fifteen projects will be selected from each of the eight funding years being investigated for a total sample size of 120.

Preliminary information on each selected project will be gathered from the official records on file in the FII offices. This information will include: 1) funding category; 2) responsible individuals; 3) project goals (as funded); 4) funding level

A survey form will be developed and tested for use in data collection. In addition to space for project "demographic" information (funding category and level), there will be both restricted-response and open-ended questions relating to the project's success. For the purposes of this evaluation, the component factors of "success" will be:

- **LONGEVITY**: Did the project activity or effect continue beyond the funding cycle? If so, was it longer than one year?
- **TRANSFER**: Were there any inquiries about the project from staff at other campuses (if so, from whom and which campus)? Was the project replicated or adapted by other institutions (if so, which)?
- **IMPACT**: Did the project have a positive influence/impact on any faculty members beyond those directly involved in it (if so, describe the effect and identify the individuals)? Was there a direct, verified, positive impact on students/learners (if so, describe the effect and the verification procedures used)?
- **PLANNED OUTCOME**: Did the project achieve at least 50% of its goals? Did it achieve at least 90% of its goals?
- **PERSONAL WORTH**: Did the positive consequences of participation in the project by individual faculty members outweigh the negative? Were the positive consequences consonant with the goals of the FII (promotion of excellence in programs/services, &c.)?

Telephone interviews with the directors/administrators of the selected projects will be
scheduled by the Project's clerical staff. The Project's research staff, specially trained for this purpose, will conduct the structured interviews. A randomly selected subsample of ten project sites will then be visited to validate data gathered for those projects still in effect. (As part of this validation process, the project directors will be required to produce tangible evidence of the completion of their projects -- i.e., final products and/or reports.)

Based on the information provided during the interviews, projects will be scored on each of the questions listed above for the five component factors of success ('1" = yes; "O" = no). Scores will be summed across factors the maximum attainable score is 10. [To aid in interpretation, the distribution of scores will be categorized as follows: O --> 2 = minimal success: 3 --> 7 = moderate success- 8 --> 10 maximum success.]

"Success" is the study's criterion variable. The study's predictor variables are "Funding Level," "Project Type," and "Timeliness." Each predictor is divided into defined categories.

**FUNDING LEVEL:** Since selected projects could either have been part of the consortium effort, received funds in addition to those granted by the FII, or received "augmentation funds" from the FII, the total (all-source) funds received by each project will be ascertained and used to categorize projects as follows:

- Level #1 --> Less than $5,000
- Level #2 --> $5,000 to $15,000
- Level #3 --> $15,001 to $22,000
- Level #4 --> $22,001 to $30,000
- Level #5 --> More than $30,000

**PROJECT TYPE:** Categories used are those specified in Ed. Code, Sec. 84381.

**TIMELINESS:** Projects will be categorized on the following bases:

- Group A --> Completed within the stipulated timeframe.
- Group B --> Received an extension beyond the stipulated timeframe.

The distribution of "success" scores will be analyzed in the aggregate as well as between categories on each predictor variable. Statistical significance will be set at the $\alpha = .10$ level.

Quantitative results will be presented in tabular form; responses to open-ended questions will also be listed. The Project Director and staff will prepare a written interpretation of findings. After review by the entire Project research staff, the report will be finalized, duplicated and distributed to the FII and each California community college.
The following chart outlines the major activities involved in the successful completion of the proposed project, along with the timeframes and required personnel:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
<th>ACTIVITY &amp; PERSONNEL</th>
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| 1 JUL-1 AUG | A) Develop and pilot test survey  
Personnel: PD/SR  
B) Select sample projects and compile initial data from FII records  
Personnel: PD/SR/RAs  
C) Train Project staff in conduct of structured interview and coring of survey responses  
Personnel: PD/SR/RAs |

| 1 AUG-1 NOV | D) Collect survey data -  
• schedule telephone interviews  
Personnel: PD/CL  
• conduct structured interviews  
Personnel: SR/RAs  
• visit sites to validate data  
Personnel: SR/RAs |

| 1 NOV-1 DEC | E) Analyze data and develop data presentation formats  
Personnel: SR/RAs |

| 1 DEC-1 JAN | F) Complete final written report  
• write initial draft  
Personnel: PD/CL  
• review and revise draft  
Personnel: PD/SR/RAs/CL  
• duplicate and compile completed final report  
Personnel: PD/CL |

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

To meet the project's objectives, the following personnel will be required:

PROJECT SUPERVISOR responsible for overall administration of the Project; ensures Project's fiscal accountability; provides management leadership; facilitates Project's interface with the local institution.

PROJECT DIRECTOR (PD) responsible for the design, development and implementation of the Project; selects and trains staff; plans, schedules, and oversees staff activities; prepares initial and final drafts of the formal written report.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
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<tr>
<td>SENIOR RESEARCHER (SR)</td>
<td>responsible for selection and use of appropriate research methodology and analytical techniques; provides leadership in the data collection, analysis and interpretation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESEARCH ASSOC. (RAs)</td>
<td>responsible for the practical implementation of Project activities, including data collection, analysis and interpretation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLERK (CL)</td>
<td>responsible for standard office functions, including telephone reception, typing, and filing.</td>
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6. Expected Outcomes

Expected Impact and Transferability

By providing FII staff with vital evaluative information on the demonstrated success of FII projects, this project can assist in the future Administration of the Fund to optimize the improvement of instruction at the institutional level. The model developed by this project could be implemented by FII staff on an ongoing basis to monitor the overall program success of the Fund.
7. Evaluation Plan

Evaluation Plan

The project's progress/formative evaluation will be conducted by the Project Supervisor and staff. Successful completion of the project is contingent upon the publication and dissemination of research findings.
8. Dissemination Plan

Information for Dissemination

A preliminary report on the project's findings will be presented at a planning meeting of the FII Advisory Committee (7 NOV 86). The project's final report will be published and distributed to the deans of instruction at all California community colleges and to the FII staff (1 JAN 87). Project staff will be available to make a formal presentation of the findings to the Board of Governors during the Spring of 1987.
9. Budget Narrative

[NO “BUDGET NARRATIVE” ACCOMPANIES THIS DOCUMENT.]