Air Conditioning & Refrigeration

Program Strengths and Accomplishments
The Air Conditioning and Refrigeration program has undergone significant changes in personnel in the last two years. As senior faculty members have reached retirement age, the program has engaged in a process of renewal with the hiring of new permanent teachers. The program directly addresses industry needs by providing quality instruction to students who are able to enter the workforce immediately. Though our goal is to increase the number of degrees and certificates awarded, given the high number of employment opportunities for students with even minimal training, our program continues to meet its goal of positioning students for good paying jobs.

The program has established significant connections with business partners. The commercial/industrial focus of the program makes it unique. Partnerships with corporations such as Geary Pacific, Bard Manufacturing and Johnson Controls are indicators of a revitalization in the program and a more industry focused approach. We believe that these partnerships and the infusion of contemporary equipment and techniques will position the program to serve our students and workforce needs far into the future.

Other Issues Facing the Department
The Air Conditioning & Refrigeration program faces ongoing external pressure to maintain currency of process, technology and equipment. Upgrading of equipment is critical to the long term success of the program. Enrollment figures have declined over the period of transition and rehiring. Marketing and outreach efforts are needed to increase student interest. Refocused and revised curriculum will address concerns about indicators of student performance, including retention, success and degree/certificate attainment.

Goals/Action Plans for the Next Three Years
- Complete process for the attainment of HVAC Excellence Accreditation.
- Complete internal program realignment.
- Finalize and implement a holistic marketing and outreach plan focusing upon connections with local high schools.
- Continue to upgrade and update equipment, including incorporation of devices utilizing the most current new refrigerants.

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