Aviation

Program Strengths and Accomplishments
The Cypress College Aviation program supports the college commitment to relevant quality career/technical education by providing practical, personalized and value-priced instruction. Program graduates move into positions in the industry with a well-rounded aviation background. Periodic retraining options are interwoven with entry level training to provide opportunities for students across the spectrum of their needs. Market analysis indicates there are significant opportunities for students who successfully complete program requirements, including employment opportunities for pilots at all levels. It is significant to note that senior pilots with major airlines are among the highest paid workers in the nation. By providing pathways for program graduates to enter into this field, we are addressing workforce needs in a field with the potential for significant career earnings.

Other Issues Facing the Department
The Cypress College Aviation program is small and would benefit greatly from the addition of a full time faculty member. With a significant proportion of instruction delegated to adjunct faculty, sustained improvement in student success factors will continue to pose a significant challenge. Marketing and outreach activities are difficult to sustain with a small teaching staff and limited clerical support. Better tracking of enrollment and performance data is necessary to the development of long-term strategies to improve retention and success figures.

Goals/Action Plans for the Next Three Years
- Establish a more balanced ratio of full time and adjunct faculty assignments.
- Establish a clerical support position for the program.
- Improve and expand access to new technologies and equipment.
- Expand hands on flying simulations.
- Establish career portfolios for all Aviation students to document basic skills, program subject matter proficiency, and student learning outcomes assessment.
- Foster visibility and support for the program by continuing support for the Flying Team.
- Increase, stabilize and track enrollment with outreach, marketing and public relations activities.