Dance

Program Strengths and Accomplishments
The Dance program is among the most visible of the college. The program continues its commitment to recognize, respond to and foster the richness of diversity in our students, staff and curriculum. By providing a spectrum of course and production offerings, the program addresses student needs in academics, fitness, performance and community relations.

The program maintains a focus on trends in the popular culture by developing and offering courses embracing the dynamics of the field. Though staffing remains a challenge, particularly in the popular areas of Hip-Hop, Latin and Swing, the program is committed to the maintenance of currency and relevancy. Course and department fill rates are amongst the highest at the college, indicating ongoing high demand for quality instruction. Our most effective marketing device is the development and staging of high-quality dance productions that showcase the talents of our staff and students.

Other Issues Facing the Department
Due to the loss of a permanent full-time position, the Dance program is significantly dependent upon adjunct staffing. Though we value the contributions of our adjunct staff, program vitality is significantly dependent upon our permanent staff. Identifying qualified teachers remains a challenge, as the minimum qualification is a masters degree. Many professionals, experts in their particular dance disciplines, cannot teach for us due to this restriction.

The program would benefit greatly from an increased and stable base of funding. Many program needs can only be addressed via the college Emergency Funding process. A stable base of adequate program funding would help us to address critical program needs in a timely manner and avoid the need for submitting such requests.

Goals/Action Plans for the Next Three Years
- Hire a full-time tenure track Dance instructor.
- Identify and hire expert adjunct teachers as needed.
- Increase the number of transfers to four year colleges and universities.
- Review and revise curriculum to maintain currency with current trends.
- Maintain and promote the Dance Touring Ensemble.
- Procure a portable stage and sound system for outdoor performances.
- Purchase a Marley floor for dance performances.
- Procure needed program funds to support accompanists, master classes and guest artists.