Physical Science

Program Strengths and Accomplishments
The Physical Science program includes Astronomy, Geology, Engineering/Engineering Technology, Physics and Physical Science. The focus of the program is upon exposing students to the principles of science, providing a solid foundation in critical thinking and preparing students for success in upper division studies. The College has made a concerted effort to provide the support necessary to maintain and advance opportunities for science exploration for our students, including a substantial investment in computer equipment and software. The incorporation of “Smart” classroom technology, state of the art telescopes and video cameras has contributed significantly to program improvements. The development and implementation of computer based lab applications have also contributed to improvements in the Physical Science teaching environment.

Other Issues Facing the Department
Recent enrollment trends indicate a need for ongoing review of course and curriculum relevancy and the initiation of new marketing and outreach efforts. Many of the programs are considering the development of additional online/hybrid alternatives to address student needs. The Physical Science program is housed in the Science, Engineering and Mathematics building. Slated for remodel in the next two years, the building is not currently sufficient to address the needs of a viable and contemporary science program. Though many issues of concern regarding the building will be addressed upon completion of the SEM remodel project, that completion date is at least 4 years away. The College and the Division will face the challenge of offering quality instruction in a less than optimal facility until that time.

Goals/Action Plans for the Next Three Years
- Increase demand for courses within the Physical Sciences disciplines.
- Review curriculum for quality, relevance and currency.
- Identify and purchase equipment necessary for program integrity.
- Continue current and establish new connections with related educational and business partners to provide opportunities for our students.
- Explore and incorporate instructional methodologies to improve student learning outcomes.
- Establish science-related clubs to foster and nurture student interest in the Physical Sciences.