

## Regional Centers of Excellence Talking Points November 3, 2015

### RCE Concept

- RCE concept is aligned with Board and Chancellor vision of regionalization and pooling of resources district-wide for the maximum benefit to students.
- There are no “models” of what “regionalization” will look like for any given program; rather the conversation at this stage is to identify subject matter experts (faculty, ICs, industry, administrators) to form RCE Councils that will assess and consider all program resources available across the district, demand, data etc. for informed decision-making as to resource allocation for given program needs.
- RCE concept does not dictate the centralization of program offerings to single sites.
- Idea is to identify and recommend system-solutions generating desired student outcomes consistent with industry demand.

### Rationale

- Opportunity to affect change to improve student outcomes given limited resource constraints.
- National Best Practice generating proven success.
- Chance to have state-of-the-art facilities supported by industry donations (financial and in-kind), technology, equipment, wrap-around student services and work in a collaborative community of scholars
- RCEs will allow us to be competitive against other external institutions for student enrollment and also increase our collective ability to get more resources (grants, etc.) from industry partners, external organizations, etc.
- Proposed decision-making model and process creates unprecedented opportunity for academic and administrative leaders to engage in system-wide critical resource-allocation decisions.

### Draft Decision-Making Model for Operational Framework

- Proposed RCE Councils would be charged by Chancellor to make recommendation(s) of an operational framework that delivers a system-wide solution to given program(s) offering(s)—this is a process distinct and apart from decisions about program curriculum.
- Academic leadership, college leadership, faculty, community/industry partners comprise proposed convened Council.

### Timeline

- RCEs as a concept have been discussed at MCCCDC for at least the last eight (8) years. No system-wide decisions or approaches have been implemented in this time.
- To date, Chancellor has introduced RCE conceptually as a ONE Maricopa initiative and identified Manufacturing as an area of development.
- To date, the Chancellor’s Office with support from the Office of Workforce Development has collected data and surveyed existing RCE models to inform RCE concept discussion for stakeholder feedback.

### Relationship to Maricopa Priorities (specifically recommendation CTE-2)

- All 12 areas recommended in CTE-2 for regionalization study are included in draft cluster wheel.
- Since this matter has such broad impact, additional process and structure was needed beyond MP process. This was referenced in recommendation itself—“Implementation of this recommendation should include significant discussion and investigation to ensure equitable and strategic decisions, compliance with policy, and investigation of potential for coordinating colleges to offer courses at other sites.”
- Specific recommendations from MPST (e.g. “Consolidate from 4 colleges to 2 colleges”) will be evaluated along with all other possible options.