

Paradise Valley Community College

What is a Learning Centered College?

As a Learning Centered College PVCC places two questions at the heart of everything we do: How does this program, service, budget decision, or process positively impact student learning? And, How do we know? Paradise Valley Community College was founded on a student development philosophy and has always maintained learning as our core value. Our motto is “The Power of Learning” and our vision statement includes the aspiration “to be the higher learning organization of choice by creating engaging lifelong educational relationships that inspire and support all learners to increase their capacity for personal growth and positive social change.” Borrowing from the literature, we have identified the following learning centered indicators that guide our work.

1. Learning encompasses students, employees and the organization.
2. Learning outcomes are identified and made explicit and serve as the centerpiece for program and curriculum development as well as development and delivery of student, academic, and administrative support services.
3. Outcomes are assessed for the purpose of demonstrating that learning occurred and for continuous program and course improvement.
4. Learning opportunities are accessible to learners and offered in a variety of formats and methodologies.
5. Student success outcomes emphasize active and engaged learning, connecting to the college environment, goal setting, successful navigation of college processes, and relationship building with faculty, staff, students and peers. These outcomes are made explicit to students.
6. The college’s systems (policies, procedures, structures, technologies, strategic planning, budgeting and institutional effectiveness processes) and environments are designed and evaluated in terms of their support of learning.
7. Supported by Employee and Organizational Learning programs, the college’s employees demonstrate a commitment to continuous learning.
8. Research about learning and learners is routinely considered and systemically incorporated into the college’s learning processes, programs and services.