- Technology Training survey
- Technology Committee vision and brainstorm session
- Technology Master Plans/best practices from comparable institutions
- Equipment inventories
- Review of 2010-2011 technology purchases (via spending codes)
- 2011 Cuesta College Job Satisfaction Survey
- 2011-2012 Faculty Technology Survey

Funding Assumptions

For any planning to be of real value, it must take into account some measure of the funding resources expected to be available or the potential lack thereof. The following assumptions regarding funding were made when writing this document.

A significant number of demands for technology-related support will compete for limited funding. Consequently, the use of resources allocated to technology will be driven by needs/strategies which are identified and prioritized in this plan.

The economy for the State of California is not likely to improve much over the next five years, and in fact, may continue to decline.

The Cuesta College Foundation will allocate $100,000 annually to support the initiatives found in the Technology Plan

Cuesta developed a funding stream via the MAA (Medical Administrative Activities) program, from which 45% of the income will be used to fund technology at Cuesta.

Other external sources of funding may be developed, but these acquisitions will be consistent with the overall Technology Plan of the College.

Cuesta College will submit a Title III Grant that may provide additional funding.

Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles, which describe the fundamental values used to make decisions regarding the acquisition and use of information technology, were used in writing this plan.

Student access and success are the primary focus for the use of information technology.

Technology must be responsive to changing student, institutional and community needs.

The mission of the district drives decision-making regarding the use of technology.

Effective use of technology requires consistent and accessible quality support for students and employees.

Maintaining existing technologies is generally given higher priority than expansion or implementation of new initiatives but emerging or innovative solutions would not be overlooked.

The total cost of ownership (TCO) is to be assessed in all stages of planning and implementation of new technologies.

Total Cost of Ownership

Cuesta College is moving toward integrating the business practice commonly referred to as the total cost of ownership, which provides an estimate of the total cost to deploy and maintain a given technology over its lifetime. This is considered an essential aspect of financial planning because technology deployments typically incur, over their lifetime, a variety of direct or indirect operational costs that are less apparent than the initial capital expense of deployment.

One specific aspect of total cost of ownership planning is the cost to replace the technology as it ages. This is particularly relevant to Cuesta College because, while many technology deployments at the College are initiated by special one-time funds (such as grants, new building funds, special programs, etc.), the replacement costs are typically borne by the District. As one-time funded projects age, the District must allocate funds to renovate obsolete systems. By budgeting for the inevitable replacement costs, the College will be better able to plan instructional and administrative programs confident that the underlying technology will be maintained at an appropriate standard.

Assessment and Review

The Technology Plan is a five-year plan, so in order to maintain currency and effectiveness, it will be reviewed and the activities updated annually as needed. This annual evaluation of the plan will involve several components. The Technology Committee will conduct assessments in alignment with the Institutional Effectiveness Committee. Additionally, the Technology Committee will evaluate the progress the District has made toward each of the initiatives since