Innovation of the Year 2016:

DRS Connect

Submitted by:

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Glendale Community College – DRS Connect

DRS Connect Team Members:

Dr. Maria Harper-Marinick	Sponsor
Amy Rabideau	Project Lead
Linda Reib	Project Manager
Dave Fraedrich	Initiator
Julie Smith	Initiative Team
Julie Nevarez	SME
MaryJane Nichols	SME
Patty Jacobsen	SME
Phyllis Jones	SME
Richard Lang	SME
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Executive Summary:

The DRS Connect web-based database application centralizes all MCCCD DRS offices by enabling remote internet access for students with disabilities, student note takers, DRS advisors, sign language interpreters and faculty (residential and adjunct) through electronic resources and services to ensure students with disabilities have equal access to post-secondary education.

Descriptive Overview:

DRS Connect is a comprehensive database system that functions as a working processor for DRS services. DRS Connect meets current accessibility requirements for student and staff users and was developed and designed with accessibility and usability as a core principle. DRS Connect innovation has successfully united MCCCD DRS offices across the county, creating a secure single file for students with disabilities.

Criteria No. 1: *Quality* – The DRS Connect team believes in ensuring that students with disabilities are able to easily apply for accommodations through DRS Connect. DRS Connect empowers students with disabilities to be advocates for themselves while learning to request accommodations, seek educational assistance, and advocate for their rights as an individual with a disability by using their approved accommodations through DRS Connect. *Maricopa Value: Education*

Criteria No. 2: *Efficiency* - DRS Connect eliminates the need for students with disabilities to apply for services on each individual campus that they attend within MCCCD. Students no longer need to produce disability documentation for each separate DRS office as DRS Connect provides a single district wide student file. *Maricopa Value: Responsibility*

Criteria No. 3: *Cost Effectiveness* – DRS Connect is a paperless database and utilizes technology to execute its processes. In addition, DRS Connect reduces the amount of time DRS staff spend reviewing documentation and determining reasonable and appropriate accommodations leaving more time for student mentoring and advising. *Maricopa Value: Responsibility*

Criteria No. 4: *Replication* – DRS Connect training is being provided to all DRS staff district wide by GCC DRS staff experts. GCC DRS advisors serve as a resource for all MCCCD campuses. *Maricopa Value: Excellence*

Criteria: No. 5 *Creativity* – DRS Connect is modeled after ASU's DRC Connect and uses the same web-based application to allow for a smoother transition for MCCCD students with disabilities who transfer to ASU eliminating some of fear and anxiety that happens when transferring to a large university. *Maricopa Value: Excellence*

Criteria No. 6: *Timeliness* – DRS Connect was implemented during the 2015-2016

fiscal year and was piloted by Glendale Community College and Scottsdale

Community College. Glendale Community College is still testing additional features such as the SMS notification system, testing module and alternative format module. The DRS Connect Inception Sept. 2014 – Implementation Jan. 2016

Maricopa Value: Excellence

Criteria No. 7: *Learning* – Amy Rabideau, the GCC DRS Manager, provided and continues to provide, training for MCCCD DRS Managers this and is traveling to other campuses to provide in person training, while also conducting weekly Webinars to train MCCCD DRS office staff. In turn, DRS staff will then instruct students on how to interact with the system. *Maricopa Value: Education*

Criteria No. 8: *Collaboration* – When this vision is fully realized and all ten campuses are fully trained and operational (Fall 2016), DRS Connect will centralize MCCCD DRS services for students with disabilities throughout Maricopa.

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DRS Connect Team Photo