# Area of Emphasis Degree in Social and Behavioral Sciences

2015 Reflection on the AOE PLO Assessment, 2012 - 2013

#### NORCO COLLEGE

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### Background

In the spring of 2012 Norco College engaged in an initial project to assess the seven Areas of Emphasis (AOE) Degrees, including the AOE for Social and Behavioral Sciences. The project involved asking graduates, in each of the AOE degrees, to determine the extent to which they thought they achieved each of the program learning outcomes for their identified degree. This method of assessment was then replaced by a more robust and authentic approach in the 2012-2013 academic year. This project involved multiple steps, the identification of faculty leaders to help facilitate the assessment plan, and the generation of a more authentic method of assessment. The project resulted in the following:

Student Learning Outcomes for each of the courses were aligned to corresponding Program Level Outcomes (PLO) for each of the AOE.

Specific PLOs in each AOE were assessed, with the inclusion of multiple disciplines. Data were generated and analyzed for each AOE and a report was produced in December 2013 (Areas of Emphasis Program Assessment Report, December 2013).

Faculty in the Social and Behavioral Sciences identified the following PLO for assessment:

Students will demonstrate an ability to apply the theories and principles of human development, human interaction, cultural diversity, and global awareness to their everyday lives.

Data were gathered from the following courses:

Economics 8, Psychology 9, Sociology 1 and 10

The assessment results were as follows:

Group 1 (N = 233), 3.25 on a 4 points scale

Group 2 (N = 207), 3.41 on a 4 points scale

Group 3 (N= 90), 3.52 on a 4 point

The overall mean across the three courses was 3.33 on a 4 point scale. The student cohort from the previous spring (2012) survey averaged 3.72 on this PLO. Of the 569 students assessed, 485 (85.2%) demonstrated competency in this area.

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identified for inclusion in the AOE. The selection, for some, seemed too random. The group wanted to gain clarification on the process for adding and removin