

HISTORY

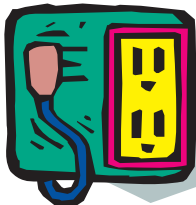


In 1987, after observing installation of data network ports, Vice-Chancellor Alfredo de los Santos Jr. began asking faculty, "What is the meaning of all this for learning? Who will set the agenda for technology?" The response was to create Ocotillo, a faculty-led organization to derive and address the technology agenda across our system. Ocotillo initiated with a series of topic-oriented committees which over the years varied and broadened the district's perspectives of infusing technology for teaching and learning.



In 1996 Ocotillo re-invented itself into a network of college based, "technology/learning roundtables." As an initial charge, the colleges were asked to develop forward-looking instructional technology plans, and the discussions that ensued began to "bubble" up issues that transcend the individual college interests.

Ocotillo evolves continually with the ever changing landscape of technology.



METAPHOR

The ocotillo is a Sonoran desert plant that grows long, sweeping branches from a compact base. Several times a year, usually following a rain storm, an ocotillo plant will burst with green leaves and bright red flowers. Broken branches that fall to the ground will often root and sprout into new plants.

The long arching branches of this plant clearly represent the directions Maricopa's Ocotillo process may take.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Ocotillo

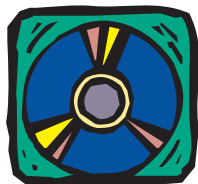
Ocotillo continually asks the questions that ensure that learning is driving technology.

Ocotillo serves as a means to surface and share issues related to applications of technologies to support *learning*.

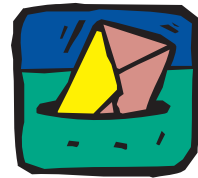
Ocotillo is organized so that colleges and departments can collaborate on or coordinate their shared efforts across the Maricopa system.

WHAT OCOTILLO IS

Ocotillo is a systemic collaboration of faculty, administrators, and staff who are committed to promoting the effective use of instructional technology. This body researches, plans, and fosters the Maricopa Community Colleges' common goals related to technology--it's applications and integration for the improvement of student learning.



STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION



A general faculty Chair provides overall leadership and vision to Ocotillo. Each college has an Ocotillo Roundtable Group. Each roundtable is led by a faculty chair and is co-chaired by the Dean of Instruction. The Maricopa Center for Learning and Instruction provides support.

Each roundtable meets regularly at the colleges. Roundtables may differ in structure across the district. However, Ocotillo chairs meet monthly during the academic year.



Ocotillo may "spin off" specialized work groups to address a specific issue or topic and who recruit participation from other administrative areas.

At the end of each Spring semester, Ocotillo hosts a two-day retreat where activities are designed to review the progress of Ocotillo's work and help derive the issues that will be addressed in the coming year.



OUTCOMES AND EXAMPLES

Over the years, the Ocotillo process has:

- created a permanent position for Grants Writing (1988)
- produced a nationally-used standards document for wiring (1989-92)
- designed a district-wide library system (1988-92)
- organized Discipline Dialogues for faculty (1990-91)
- developed an electronic forum Posting Request System (1989-90)
- expanded the computer conferencing system to the entire system (1989-92)
- developed guidelines for Open Entry/Open Exit courses (1989-91)
- standardized equipment and training for a Video Conferencing Network (1991-92)
- published video and guidelines for Intellectual Rights/Copyright (1992-93)
- initiated an NSF-funded Mathematics Reform project (1992-93)
- aligned college technology plans (1998-)
- created a web resource directory for technology planning (1998)
- facilitated the adoption of Blackboard web course authoring tools (1999)