



**Student Campus Climate Survey  
Executive Summary  
Los Rios Community College District  
Office of Institutional Research  
Fall 2022**

During the 2021 academic year, as requested by the Los Rios Community College District Board of Trustees and college and district leadership, the District Research Council was asked to develop and administer a *Student Campus Climate* survey with a focused lens on equity. A Campus Climate Survey workgroup was formed with district and college representatives including research deans, analysts and technical professionals who worked in collaboration with the District Vice President of Educational Services and Student Success. The process included a comprehensive literature review of national and statewide Campus Climate surveys; based on the results of the literature review the recommendation was to develop a local *Student Campus Climate* survey which would best reflect a community college learning environment. The recommendation of the workgroup was presented to and approved by district and college executive leadership and stakeholders.

The Campus Climate survey was based on thorough reviews of not only national and statewide surveys but also the ARC and FLC Student Campus Climate surveys that had been administered to students at both respective colleges. Once the survey was developed, the workgroup reviewed the survey and design process with leadership including the district Academic Senate President. Once approved, the workgroup designed an aligned methodology to draw the survey sample based on the following criteria:

- Students enrolled in at least one course in the Spring 2022 term
- For each college, 33% of eligible students (over sampling) was drawn based on a random sample ID generator
- However, the colleges requested that *all* students identifying as African American, Filipino, Pacific Islander, Native American and non-binary with regard to gender were included in the sample to ensure representation in the survey responses.
- Students “under 18” and those students in Apprenticeship and Public Safety Center programs and courses were excluded from the sample.

The *Student Campus Climate Survey* administration began in March 2022 and was sent to over 35,000 students across the Los Rios colleges. Email invitations were sent to students as determined by their home college signed by their college president, and a series of reminders were sent to students throughout the spring term. Survey administration was supported by college and district communications teams, who posted information about the survey in newsletters and on social media.

Unfortunately, even with the focused email invitations, survey reminders and support by college teams the response to the survey was very low. Slightly over 1,100 students responded to the survey. In addition to the low response rate, there was also a low question completion rate, especially towards the end of the survey. The lessons learned from this experience will be discussed in the follow-up notes at the end of this Executive Summary. Because of the low response rate, the DRC Campus Climate Survey workgroup agreed it is best to provide a district level summary of responses, as disaggregation by college results in very small response counts. We feel strongly that we did hear from over 1,100 students who took the time to complete the survey, and their voices are important.

This is the first in a series of *Student Campus Climate* response summaries which will focus on the main theme areas. This will be followed by a series of reports that will provide the findings based on each of the questions that are part of the theme areas.

## **The Student Perspective on the Los Rios Campus Climate**

Survey recipients were asked to provide their level of agreement to a series of statements each of which are organized around the following themes: General Experiences, Academic Success, Course Experiences, Student Support Services and Diversity and Inclusion statements. Students were asked to respond to the series of statements based on an Agreement Scale ranging from 1 to 5, with 1 meaning they strongly disagree and 5 meaning they strongly agree with the statement. What follows are the average means of the theme areas based on the aggregated average means of the specific statements in each theme area. The average means are provided by overall responses and disaggregated by race and ethnicity based on all survey responses across the district.

### Theme Area Average Means (by All Survey Respondents)

Chart 1 provides student responses to each of the theme areas and illustrates survey respondents generally agree with the statements in each response area, ranging from 4.32 average mean agreement for experiences in courses to a 4.06 average mean response to Student Support experiences at their Los Rios college.

Chart 1: On a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), average mean of overall theme area level of agreement: by all survey respondents



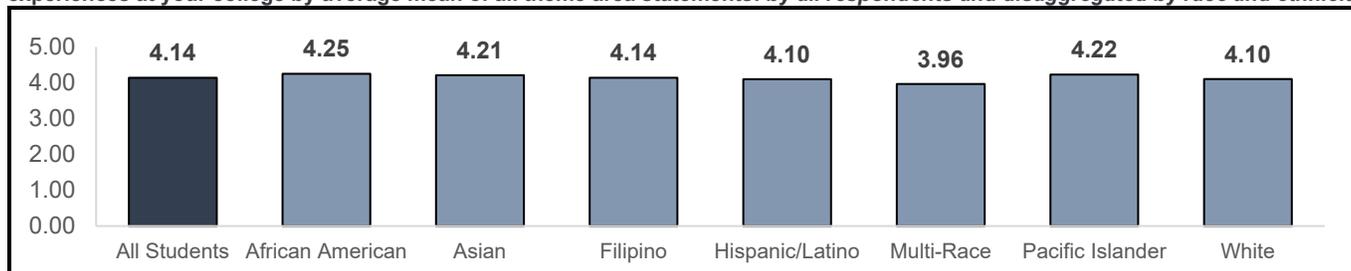
### Average Means by Each Theme Area (by all Survey Responses Disaggregated by Race and Ethnicity)

The following charts provide the average means by each Theme Area disaggregated by race and ethnicity; generally, there is a high level of agreement in each of the theme areas including average mean responses disaggregated by race and ethnicity. Note that additional survey summaries by each theme area statement will follow this high level Executive Summary Report.

#### Overall Experiences at your Los Rios College

Survey respondents were asked to provide their level of agreement to a series of statements about their **overall experiences** at their Los Rios college. This theme area focuses on statements about students’ sense of belonging, a welcoming environment, sense of community, feeling safe, and creating an equitable and inclusive environment. The average means illustrate a strong level of agreement about overall experiences by survey respondents, ranging from 4.25 for African American students responding to the survey to a slightly lower 3.96 for multi-race respondents.

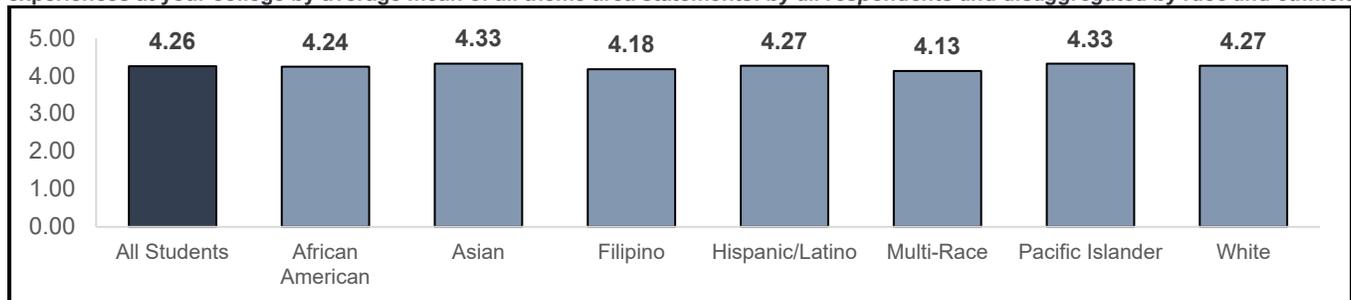
Chart 2: On a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), please provide your level of agreement about your overall general experiences at your college by average mean of all theme area statements: *by all respondents and disaggregated by race and ethnicity*



#### The Academic Experience

Survey recipients were asked to provide their level of agreement with a series of statements about their **academic experiences** at their Los Rios college. The academic theme area focuses on overall academic satisfaction, success, progress, opportunities and an increased interest in new intellectual ideas and concepts. The average means reflect a strong level of agreement, ranging from 4.33 for both Asian and Pacific Islander students to an average mean of 4.13 for students who identify as multi-race.

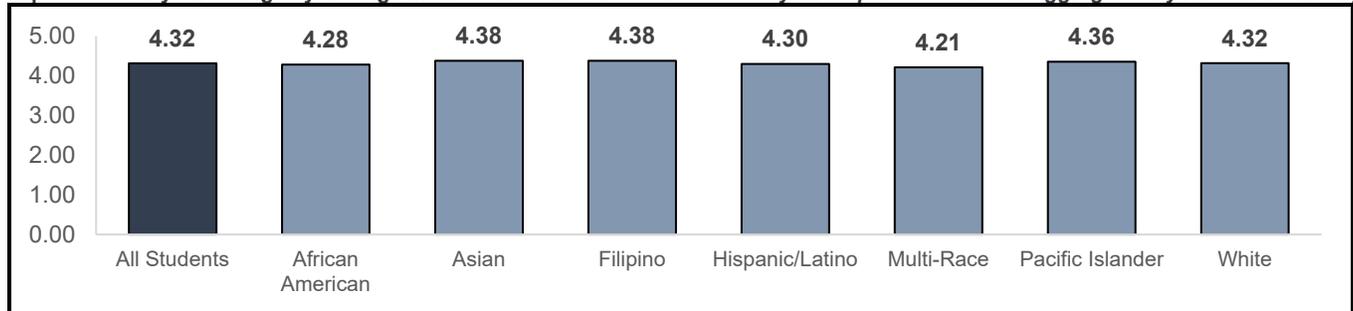
Chart 3: On a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), please provide your level of agreement about your academic experiences at your college by average mean of all theme area statements: *by all respondents and disaggregated by race and ethnicity*



## The Classroom Experience

Survey recipients were next asked to respond to a series of statements about their experiences with their **courses and in the classroom** at their Los Rios college. Statements focused on areas like equitable treatment, that their voice is heard and respected in the classroom, and if course content is culturally relevant. Again, the average means to this theme area reflect strong agreement ranging from 4.38 for both Asian and Filipino respondents to 4.21 for those respondents who identify as multi-race.

**Chart 4:** On a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), please provide your level of agreement about your classroom experiences at your college by average mean of all theme area statements: *by all respondents and disaggregated by race and ethnicity*

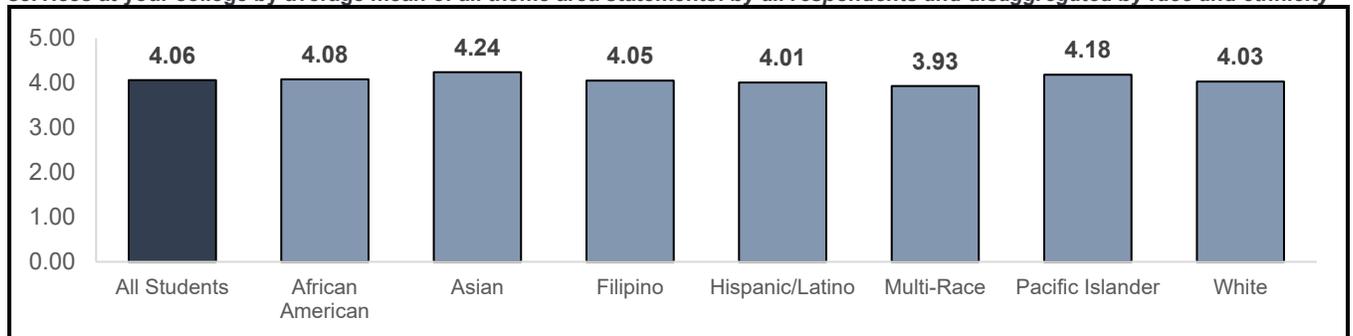


## Experiences with Student Support Programs

In addition to academic and classroom experiences, survey recipients were asked to respond to a series of statements about their **experiences with student support services** at their Los Rios college. The student support services theme area included statements that focused on fair and equitable treatment outside of the classroom, student comfort in asking for support, knowing where to go to obtain the support needed to be successful, affinity group connections, and diversity of support staff. Although for the most part there is strong agreement to the support program statements, this is one of the areas with slightly lower average means ranging from 4.24 for Asian students to 3.93 for multi-race students; also worth noting is the slightly lower 4.01 average mean for Hispanic/Latino students.

Survey recipients were also asked to indicate what types of additional support services they feel they need to be successful (housing and food insecurity, financial, mental health and physical health needs, Foster Youth services) as well as identify the types of 'stressors' they face that may impact their mental health. An analysis of those responses will be provided in the more detailed summary of the student support individual statements in a follow-up report.

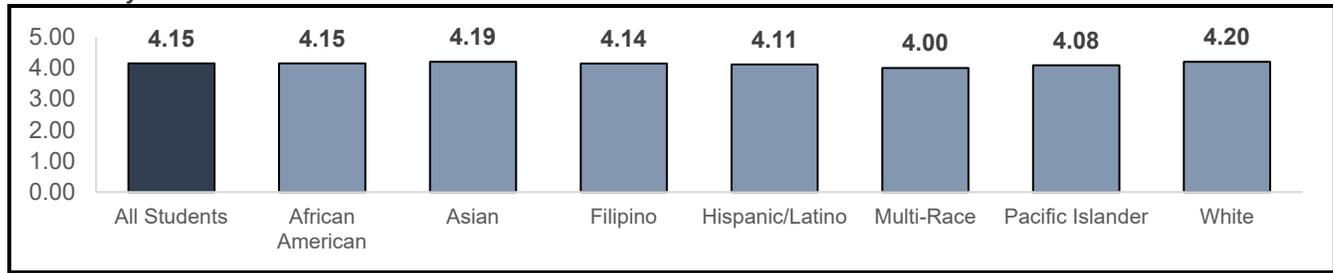
**Chart 5:** On a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), please provide your level of agreement about your student support services at your college by average mean of all theme area statements: *by all respondents and disaggregated by race and ethnicity*



## Inclusion, Diversity and Equity at Los Rios Colleges

A primary goal of the *Student Campus Climate* survey was to gauge student perspectives on areas specific to **equity, inclusion, diversity and social justice** within their Los Rios college community. The theme area statements focus on experiences that increased both awareness and respect of multiple perspectives and cultures, their college's commitment to equity, and a sense of belonging because they see students, faculty and staff with whom the student can identify with. The level of agreement with the statements is very strong ranging from 4.20 for white students, 4.19 for Asian students, 4.15 for African American and 4.11 for Hispanic/Latino survey recipients. The 4.00 level of agreement for multi-race students is the lowest of the average response means for this theme area.

**Chart 6:** On a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), please provide your level of agreement about your perspective on inclusion and diversity at your college by average mean of all theme area statements: *by all respondents and disaggregated by race and ethnicity*



### Campus Climate Survey Preliminary Findings

- Unfortunately, there was a very low response rate to the survey as well as a low question completion rate; this context is important when reviewing the survey results.
- Overall, there is a strong level of agreement to each of the general theme areas of the survey.
- There is a somewhat lower level of agreement by students who identify as multi-race and may call for further analysis.

### Lessons Learned

- **Length of Survey:** The *Campus Climate Survey* was very long and this contributed to the low response rate for both survey and question completion. The DRC workgroup has had lengthy conversations about the approach to surveys in the future and will recommend shorter and very focused surveys. Using the *Campus Climate Survey* as an example instead of one long survey trying to address every issue of concern we administer shorter surveys that focus on one theme area.
- **Incentives.** We are asking our students to invest their time in providing valuable feedback by participating in surveys. There are a lot of external organizations who are also administering surveys to our students and as a result survey fatigue is real. As a district we are not allowed to offer our students incentives yet external entities who administer surveys to Los Rios students are able to offer incentives ranging from gift cards to iPads. We will continue conversations with leadership to find solutions to the incentive challenge, which had a negative impact not only on the Campus Climate response rate but the response rates for all Los Rios surveys we administer to our students.

### Next Steps for Research:

- Complete analysis based on the responses to each of the statements in the theme areas and provide quick summaries of the findings.
- Colleges will work on local follow-up research based on initial findings as well as the findings specific to their college noting the limitations of the small number of responses.
- The DRC workgroup will begin preliminary development of an Employee Climate Survey based on lessons learned as noted above.

### Los Rios Teamwork at its Best

- The District Council Research workgroup would like to thank both the previous as well as the current Associate Vice Chancellor of Educational Services & Student Success B. J. Snowden and Sonia Ortiz-Mercado for their leadership and support throughout this project.
- Thank you to the District and College Public Information and Communications teams for supporting the survey effort with posts to social media and newsletters.
- From literature review to survey development, administration, and analysis this was a District Research Council team effort at its best. Thank you to the following DRC workgroup members whose contributions were invaluable:

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