Action Coordinators for Emergency Survival (A.C.E.S.) Program

The district Preparedness Assessment Team (PAT) was formed in 2007 in response to several events that had taken place at colleges around the country and in an effort to provide better, more comprehensive preparations at district colleges and outreach sites to handle emergency situations. A number of initiatives were undertaken as a result of the PAT recommendations. Among them were modifications to door locking hardware to prevent the type of 'lock out' that occurred during the Virginia Tech incident. Also, a campus surveillance program that called for installation of cameras at selected locations to allow for police surveillance of parking lots and other roadway/access points around our colleges. The door lock and camera projects have been funded and are nearing completion at the three main campus locations. Additional funding and future projects will be undertaken in these areas.

Another key component of the PAT recommendations was to move toward a more comprehensive way of notifying faculty, staff and student personnel of a threat or emerging emergency situation on a campus. To that end, the WARN (Wide Area Rapid Notification) system was purchased by the campus and is in the process of being installed. This will include cell phone, email and text message notification capability as well as other means to include video screens located at various sites on the campus. District and college personnel are now completing a variety of tasks associated with getting the WARN system fully operational.

Another area that was identified through the PAT process was the need to have a capability to rapidly direct and accomplish building evacuations if deemed appropriate by the emergency or threat situation. To that end, the A.C.E.S. program was developed was developed. The purpose of the programs is to identify and train staff at each district location to conduct building evacuations, search and rescue missions, and also provide basic first aid. The A.C.E.S. program provides an organized process for responding in an emergency, empowering operational units to address disaster / emergency related issues before 'first responders' arrive on scene.

A.C.E.S. participants will be trained to disseminate information and to know how to locate the use of emergency equipment throughout the campus. A.C.E.S. team members will participate in regularly planned drills once the initial training is completed. The college is looking for volunteers for this important duty, but ultimately we need to identify faculty and staff members who can perform these duties when called upon. Training sessions will be schedule for later in the spring. The objective is to have training completed and this system operational by the start of the fall semester, 2010.

This is a joint effort of the colleges and Los Rios Police Department. Points of contact for the SCC program are Valerie Cox, LRPD and Greg Hayman, SCC Operations.